Short Essay #2

Due on Wednesday, October 29, 2008

The second essay in the course deals with a randomized comparative experiment reported in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology in 1985 (Vol. 48, No. 2, pp 393–399). Professor Teresa M. Amabile, the author of the article, studied the effects of motivational orientation on creative writers. She defined two kinds of motivation: extrinsic and intrinsic, and compared the effects of these on the creative output of 72 subjects.

Your first goal in this assignment is to read the article which may be found in the course website at `http://pages.pomona.edu/~ajr04747` (follow the link to Articles in the Math 58 section). Some of the data that Professor Amabile collected are in an MS Excel file located in the Data Files' link of the course website. The name of the file is `IntrinsicVersusExtrinsicMotivationData.xls`

In your paper you will briefly describe the experiment that Professor Amabile carried out. You will also explain the questions and hypotheses that her research studied. The material in Section 3.1 in the text (*Design of Experiments*) will be relevant to your discussion of the experimental set up presented in the article.

You will then perform your own analysis of the data using a randomization test. Does your analysis corroborate the findings in the article?

Questions you might want to address in your paper are:

- Is the experimental design a good one in light of what you have read in the Design of Experiments section in the text?
- Does the researcher prove the claims in the article?
- Would you have designed the experiment differently?

Your paper should be no longer than five pages including graphs and charts.

Your essay will be graded on the clarity of your exposition and the soundness of your arguments, as well as the structure and organization of the paper. Make sure you define your terms you use clearly. Your write–up must be the result of careful and thoughtful refection on the supporting material and questions posed during discussion as well as your own. Consequently, it should not be a draft, but rather the result of at least one re–write.