Module 5 Assignment #1 – Experimental Design

Things to Help You Succeed on This Assignment

- Read
  - Ch. 10 in Morling text or Ch. 23 "Experiment Basics" and Ch. 24 "Experimental Design" in open-access text
- Watch
  - Why Experiments Support Causal Claims
  - Independent Groups vs. Within Groups Designs
  - The Life-Changing Magic of Hanging Out
- Practice
  - Quizzes
    - Review Quiz: Chapter 10
    - Case Studies: Simple Experiments
  - Self-Assessments
    - Variables: Measured or Manipulated?
    - Random Sampling vs. Random Assignment

Client: Travis Greene

Request: Travis Greene would like to develop new processes for assigning roommates together in the residence halls at BSU. He heard about some new research on matching roommates with people of a different racial identity and wants RM Consulting to verify whether the idea is a good one for next academic year.

Step 1: Review the research study mentioned in the video, "The Life-Changing Magic of Hanging Out."

1) In the opening minute, TV host Heather McGhee talks to a caller. She poses a theory about how to reduce racism. What is the theory? How did the researchers use data to test the theory?

2) What was the independent (manipulated) variable in the study? What was the dependent variable?

3) How do you know that the study was an experiment rather than a correlational study? Was it an independent-groups or within-groups design? Which of the four designs in Chapter 10 was it? (Posttest only? Prettest/posttest? Repeated measures? Concurrent measures?)

4) Sketch a graph of the result, labelling your axes mindfully. (It's ok to make up the data for this.)

5) Do the results support the claim that "having a roommate of another race can reduce people's prejudice"? Why or why not? (Provide a complete answer with three sections!)

6) In this study, it's likely that white college students experience all kinds of dorms, all different kinds of schedules, and all different types of roommates. Does this matter for the study's internal validity?

Step 2: Based on your analysis of this study, would you recommend to Travis Greene that he try to assign all residents to roommates of another racial group? Why or why not?