

## SUGGESTED COURSE EXTENSIONS

### A. Reviewing

Find a journal article in your field about a quantitative analysis. Use it to answer the following questions.

1. Is the context (Ws) of the study specified? If not, which Ws are missing or poorly defined?
2. Identify the intended audience for that journal and their expected level of familiarity with the statistical methods in the article. Evaluate the technical language.
  - a. Are definitions provided for all technical and statistical terms unfamiliar to the audience?
  - b. Are all acronyms used in the paper spelled out and defined?
  - c. Are methods or concepts named using terms familiar to that audience?
3. List the major tools (prose, tables, charts) used to present numbers in the article.
  - a. For one example of each type of tool, identify its intended purpose in that context (e.g., presenting detailed numeric values, conveying a general pattern).
  - b. Use the criteria in chapter 2 of *The Chicago Guide to Writing about Numbers*, 2nd Edition, to evaluate whether it is an appropriate choice of tool for that task.
  - c. If so, explain why. If not, suggest a more effective tool for that context.
4. Find a numeric fact or comparison in the introduction or conclusion to the article.
  - a. Is it clear what question those numbers are intended to answer?
  - b. Are the raw data reported in the text, a table, or a chart?
  - c. Are the values interpreted in the text?
  - d. Revise the paragraph to address any shortcomings you identified in parts a through c.
5. Find a description of an association between two variables. Are the direction and magnitude of the association specified? If not, rewrite the description.
6. Find a description of a pattern involving more than three values, subgroups, or sets of model results shown in a table or chart.
  - a. Is the purpose of the chart or table explained?
  - b. Is the pattern generalized or is it described piecemeal?
  - c. Are representative values reported to illustrate the pattern?
  - d. Are exceptions to the general pattern identified?

# 2

## SEVEN BASIC PRINCIPLES

- e. Rewrite the description of the table or chart using the GEE approach to address any shortcomings you identified in parts a through d.

### **B. Writing papers**

1. Describe a bivariate association among variables in your data, including the Ws, units, direction, and magnitude.
2. Graph the distribution of a continuous variable; describe it using an analogy.
3. Use the GEE approach to describe a three-way association among variables in your data.

### **C. Revising papers**

1. Repeat questions A.1 through A.6 for a paper you have previously written.
2. For the introduction and discussion sections of a paper you have previously written:
  - a. Evaluate your use of technical language, following the guidelines in chapter 2 of *The Chicago Guide to Writing about Numbers*, 2nd Edition, and keeping in mind the intended audience for your paper.
  - b. Revise the wording to fix any problems you identified in part b.
3. Have someone who is unfamiliar with your research question peer-edit the answers to questions C.1 and C.2, using the checklist from chapter 2. Revise your drafts according to the feedback you received.