12

SPEAKING ABOUT NUMBERS

PROBLEM SET

1. Adapt the material in text box 13.3 and figure 13.5 (*Writing about Numbers*, 2nd Edition, 343–45) into slides for a 10-minute presentation. Include a good title for each slide and write comments that explain how the material illustrates the principles of how to write about numbers from chapter 2.

2. Write the speaker's notes to accompany the slides you created for the previous question.

3. Create one or more slides to present the following material to a scientific audience. "The Center for Epidemiological Studies-Depression Scale (CES-D) is a 20-item scale for epidemiological research that was developed by the National Institute of Mental Health. Respondents are asked to choose from four possible responses in a Likert format, where '0' is 'rarely or none of the time (less than one day per week),' and '3' is 'almost or all of the time (five to seven days per week).' The theoretical range is from 0 to 60, with higher scores reflecting greater levels of depressive symptoms. The CES-D has four separate factors: depressive affect, somatic symptoms, positive affect, and interpersonal relations. The CES-D has very good internal consistency with alphas of .85 for the general population and .90 for a psychiatric population (Radloff 1977)."

4. Write the speaker's notes to accompany the slides you created for the previous question.

5. Write "Vanna White" notes to introduce the tables or charts listed below.
   a. Table 4.1c ("Poverty rates by age group," *Writing about Numbers*, 2nd Edition, 74)
   b. Table 6.1 ("Households by type, race, and Hispanic origin," ibid., 124)
   c. Figure 7.2b ("Federal outlays by function," ibid., 154)
   d. Figure 7.5a ("Odds ratios of emergency room visits for asthma, by race and income," ibid., 159)
   e. Figure 7.17b ("Death rates by age," ibid., 183)

6. Practice presenting (out loud) one table and one chart from question 5, using the Vanna White notes you wrote for that exhibit. Evaluate each of those mini-presentations using the checklist in chapter 12. Revise the oral presentation of each slide to fit within two minutes.

7. Adapt the following tables into simpler tables or charts for use on slides for a speech. Aim for one concept or series of closely related concepts per chart.
   a. Table 6.1 ("Households by type, race, and Hispanic origin," *Writing about Numbers*, 2nd Edition, 124)
   b. Table 6.8 ("Drug use by arrestees in selected major United States cities by type of drug and sex, 1999," ibid., 138)