

Journal 1

For the first journal entry I would like you to read the following:

- Project Overview
- Huffington Post article on MLF
- Statesman article on homelessness
- Excerpt from "Chasing the Scream: the first and last days of the war on drugs"

In your first journal, I would like you to reflect on 4 things:

1. Share your thoughts/initial impressions about MLF and their mission. If applicable, discuss any previous interaction or volunteer work with MLF.

2. Write a personal response to the "Rat Park" experiment description from "Chasing the Scream." The following question may be useful in guiding your thoughts: How does this chapter apply to the MLF project?

3. Reflect on how statistics was used in the Statesman article, how the topics address apply to our project with Mobile Loaves and Fishes, and how what we are doing may have an impact.

4. And finally, respond to the following question: What are your expectations for this project? There is a lot to digest in this project introduction and this part of the journal entry is meant to provide you some free space in which to do so. The following questions may be useful in guiding your writing. You can respond to all of these questions or none of them. The point is that you simply take time to consider the task before you and begin to process the expectations, fears, anxieties, excitements, etc. that accompany it.

- a. What are the goals we should have as a class on this project? What are the goals you have as an individual on this project?
- b. What do you perceive as potential hurdles to reaching these goals, whether from within this class or from without?
- c. What knowledge will you need to apply from this class in order to complete the project successfully?
- d. What personal qualities (leadership, communication skills, compassion, etc) will you need to complete the project successfully?
- e. What aspects of this project do you expect to be exciting, challenging, frustrating, rewarding for you?
- f. What kind of help will you need from your instructor, from the school, or from MLF to make your project successful?
- g. Describe what you expect your contribution to be to the final product of this project.

Journal 2

I mentioned at the start of the project that Austin Institute is partnering with MLF for a larger-scale study similar to what we are doing. I am still hoping to get a date on the calendar for Dr. Kevin Stuart from the institute to come speak to us as a class. Information on the Austin Institute can be found here: <https://www.austin-institute.org/>

Until then, I have attached the consent form and survey that Austin Institute is using for their MLF study. Keep in mind that we aren't operating on the same scale, but I would like you to see a "real-life" statistical instrument that is aimed at addressing the same things we are trying to analyze. I have also attached the survey last year's stats class gave for comparison (we will basically be giving the same survey this year).

In this journal entry I would like you to do 3 things:

1. Skim through the consent form and survey. Reflect on how their survey might influence ours (interesting wording or ordering of questions, ways in which bias was avoided, etc.).
2. Dr. Stuart emphasizes that "what gets measured gets prioritized." Explain what this phrase means in your own words and how it relates to the project we are doing for MLF..
3. One thing we will need to be wary of is "social desirability bias." Do a quick Google search on this phrase and describe its meaning in your own words. Reflect on how we might try to minimize this in our survey.

Journal 3

We will be having a guest speaker in class on Friday (2/23) to share about the experiences that led them to write a book on homelessness. Your journal entry, due next week, will be to reflect on the speaker's presentation..

In preparation for the visit, I have attached an excerpt from the book, "Chapter 7: Tyrone." When I asked the speaker if a particular section of the book would be best for students to read, this was the response: "The chapter about Tyrone, near the end. That's where I talk about really overcoming my aversion to this person and connecting on a human level."

If you are absent from class on Friday, your journal entry needs to be a response to reading the excerpt from Chapter 7.

You're overall guiding question for this journal entry: How did what the speaker had to say (or how did your reading from the book) impact your own view of the homeless? How did it impact your view of this project or the preparation that you'll put in to administering the survey?

Journal 4

After reading your first journal entries of the spring, a common theme emerged: having some level of anxiety or uncertainty about how to relate authentically with the formerly homeless people that we are surveying. As a class we will be taking some practical steps to address this concern prior to administering the survey on March 23. The first step was having Dr. Bullock come speak with us. This journal entry is the second step in the process of understanding (as best we can) the life situation of those we are surveying.

First, get to know the story behind one of the residents of Community First, Ellis. Read his story and watch the following videos:

Ellis part 1

Ellis part 2

Ellis part 3

(If you would like to learn about other residents, please feel free to explore their as well.)

Now, for this journal entry, I am going to ask you to do some perspective writing. Imagine you are Ellis (or any other resident of Community First) to the best of your ability. I would like you to write about two things: what a typical day might look like and what a day being interviewed/surveyed might look like. Below are some guiding questions for you to consider.

A typical day: Imagine you are Ellis (or any other resident of Community First) and you wake up in the morning. Where are you? In what kind of room and in what kind of bed? What do you eat for breakfast? What do you do with your day? What do you enjoy? What do you dislike? What are you looking forward to? What are you hoping will happen? What do you dread?

Journal 5

For this week's journal entry I would like you to practice giving our survey and then reflect on that experience.

The survey is attached as well as survey advice from ECHO (Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Inc. - visit austinecho.org for more information).

You will need to find a parent, teacher, or a friend (not in AP Stats) to volunteer to help you with this assignment. No person can be surveyed twice! So two people in stats cannot pick the same friend, teacher, or parent to survey. Whoever you pick will need to be willing to role-play slightly since they won't be a formerly chronically homeless person now living at Community First. Their answers to the questions are not important. What is important is that you get the experience of going through the entire survey and reflecting on it prior to us driving out to Community First.

Your journal entry should contain the following:

1. The name of the person you surveyed
2. A brief description of the setting the survey was given in. (What time of day was it? Where was the survey given? Was it just the two of you or were you in public? etc.)
3. How long it took to complete the survey.
4. Feedback from the volunteer you surveyed. Sample feedback items might include:
 - Were any questions confusing in their wording or answer choices?
 - Did the speaker stay on script?
 - Did the speaker do their best to avoid biasing the responses either in the way they read certain questions or their actions while the survey was in process?
 - Did they feel like the speaker was truly listening to their responses or that the speaker was just recording data?
 - Did the volunteer feel respected and that their answers mattered?
5. Your reflection on the process. Sample questions you might address:
 - Talk about your comfort level. Given that this was a trial run with a friendly volunteer, think about how you felt during the process and how that might translate to giving the survey for real. What are some things you need to be aware of to help the survey go well? (ex: nerves leading to talking fast, uneasiness over personal questions leading to a change in tone for the way the question is asked, etc.)
 - Was it difficult to listen to responses and record them at the same time?
 - After this experience, what will you do differently when you give the survey at MLF? What will you be the most mindful of when giving the real survey?

Journal 6

For this journal entry I would like for you to reflect on the experience of giving the survey (while it is still fresh in your mind). Below are some questions to help guide your reflection. You don't have to answer these questions directly, but read through them to help process and organize your thoughts.

- What were your expectations going into giving the survey (either excitement or fears)? Were those expectations met or not?
- What stood out to you the most about your experience? Why?
- What was challenging about giving the survey? What was rewarding?
- Were you prepared to perform this task? If not, what would have prepared you more?
- What did you learn about Community First through this process? What did you learn about homelessness? What did you learn about yourself?

Journal 7

For this journal entry I would like you to reflect on the data analysis that we have begun doing in class based on our survey results. To help organize your thoughts, respond to the following questions:

1. Which questions have you decided to focus on for your data analysis?
2. What methods are you using to analyze the data from those three questions and why? Have you found it hard or easy and why?
3. Do you feel prepared for the data analysis? Does it make sense when to use different inference methods that we have learned over the year?
4. Did analyzing the results of our service project help solidify concepts from the course?
5. After doing data analysis, can you explain the connection between the community service work and the content of this class? In other words, if you had to explain to some one how crunching numbers can be considered service, what would you say?

Journal 8

This journal entry is a repeat of Journal 7. In Journal 7 I asked you to reflect on the data analysis that we had begun doing in class based on our survey results. Now that time has passed and we near the end of the data analysis, I would like you to revisit these same questions. Your answers may or may not have changed.

1. Which questions have you decided to focus on for your data analysis?
2. What methods are you using to analyze the data from those three questions and why? Have you found it hard or easy and why?
3. Do you feel prepared for the data analysis? Does it make sense when to use different inference methods that we have learned over the year?
4. Did analyzing the results of our service project help solidify concepts from the course?
5. After doing data analysis, can you explain the connection between the community service work and the content of this class? In other words, if you had to explain to some one how crunching numbers can be considered service, what would you say?

Journal 9

Now that we have completed the project and presented the results to Mobile Loaves and Fishes, I would like you to reflect on the entire process of the project.

1. Complete the attached survey "Copy of Community Based Learning Student Survey."
2. Using the questions from the survey in step 1 as a guide to organize your thoughts, please share your reflections on your overall impression of the project. Here are some additional questions to consider, though you do not have to answer them directly: How did it go? What did you get out of it? Was it useful? Are there particular aspects that stood out to you? Would you recommend it for future classes? etc.

Journal 10

Please complete the attached “math attitude” survey for the second time (you completed it once at the beginning of the semester). In the survey, you responded to how accurately 16 statements described you. For your last journal entry, select at least 3 of the statements, and explain in your own words why you responded to them the way you did on the survey. For reference, I've copied each of the questions below.

Finally, I would like you to give an answer to each of the following questions.

1. Why should you value (or devalue) your math education?
2. At Regents the word ‘ministerium’ is used often. Define what this means in your own words.

Survey Questions for Reference:

I am sure that I can learn mathematics

I'm no good at math

Math doesn't scare me at all

It wouldn't bother me at all to take more math courses

Mathematics makes me feel uncomfortable, restless, irritable, and impatient

Mathematics makes me feel uneasy and confused

Mathematics is enjoyable and stimulating to me

When a math problem arises that I can't immediately solve, I stick with it until I have the solution

I would rather have someone give me the solution to a difficult math problem than have to work it out for myself

I do as little work in math as possible

I study mathematics because I know how useful it is

Mathematics is a worthwhile and necessary subject

I will use mathematics in many ways as an adult

Mathematics is of no relevance to my life

Taking mathematics is a waste of time

I expect to have little use for mathematics when I get out of school