



Chapter 0 Exercises

Multiple Choice

- Molly is writing a critical analysis of Quentin Tarantino's films. Which of the following sources is least likely to provide Molly with relevant, trustworthy information?
 - A magazine interview with Tarantino
 - A research database pertaining to Tarantino
 - A book about Tarantino's career
 - An anonymous blog post about Tarantino
- The ability to find, evaluate, and use information for a particular purpose is referred to as:
 - Academic writing
 - Peer-reviewing
 - Information literacy
 - Peer literacy
- Which of the following considerations is central to evaluating a source's accuracy?
 - How closely the source is related to your topic/purpose for researching
 - The positive, negative, or neutral attitude the author expresses about the topic
 - The tone of the content
 - Whether the information is correct
- Which of the following sources would *not* be relevant to a paper about the health effects of fast food?
 - A website with nutritional information for common fast-food items
 - A nutritionist's thesis exploring the manufacturing process of three fast food chains
 - An interview with the season one winner of a cooking show
 - An interview with a dietitian
- A distribution is defined as:
 - A way to describe the structure of a particular data set or population
 - A comparison between part of a data set and the whole
 - A graph that represents the amount of data in specific categories
 - A number that best describes a typical value in a data set
- Which of the following is an advantage of using bar graphs?
 - The ability to display data measurements over long time periods in a linear fashion
 - The ability to detect small differences between individual categories
 - The fact that bar graphs are nearly impossible to manipulate
 - The ability to make the bars on bar graphs different widths
- Jeremy wants to present the population of the United States over the last one hundred years. Which of the following would be Jeremy's best option for presenting this information?
 - Histogram
 - Bar graph
 - Line graph
 - Pie chart
- As part of a school project, Davit created a graph that shows the frequency distribution of the heights of his classmates. What type of graphical display did Davit most likely use?
 - Histogram
 - Stacked bar graph
 - Line graph
 - Pie chart

9. In a data set, the sum of all the data values divided by the number of data points is referred to as the:
- Standard deviation
 - Mode
 - Median
 - Mean
10. If all data values in a particular data set occur only once, or they occur an equal number of times, we say that the data set:
- Has no mode
 - Is unimodal
 - Is bimodal
 - Is multimodal
11. Of the three “averages,” the mean should be used with data consisting of counts and measurements when the data set doesn’t include any:
- Dispersion
 - Outliers
 - Standard deviation
 - Symmetry
12. According to the empirical rule, approximately what percentage of data points lie within three standard deviations above and below the mean?
- 50%
 - 68.7%
 - 95%
 - 99.7%
13. Dehanna completed an essay about theater performances and cited her friend’s student paper about theater. Why is this source not credible?
- Her friend is probably not an expert in this field.
 - Only someone with an advanced degree in theater has the authority to speak on this.
 - Only actors and directors have the authority to write or speak on this topic.
 - It is unethical to cite the work of friends.
14. Which of the following sources is not relevant for an academic essay about abortion?
- A sociological study of people who have had abortions
 - A study on the history of abortion legislation in America
 - An opinion piece about the responsibilities of the Supreme Court
 - An interview with a sociology professor that studies abortion statistics
15. What is meant by the term *bias*?
- The relevance of a news article
 - Opinions and preferences
 - The credentials of an author
 - The credibility of a source
16. A conflict of interest occurs when:
- An author doesn’t care about their topic
 - Someone has a hidden motive or plan
 - An author has a personal stake in a topic that affects their purpose
 - The tone of an article or book is inconsistent
17. Consider the following excerpt from a research paper:
- Recent research by Dr. Ed Hoffman demonstrates that milkweed is on the decline in North America, which, he points out, has led to a decline in monarch butterflies.
- Where should the publication date be inserted?
- Only on the works-cited page
 - At the beginning of the excerpt
 - At the end of the excerpt
 - After “Dr. Ed Hoffman”

18. Manuel is writing an APA-style research paper and needs to format the title correctly. Which of the following choices would be an appropriate title? Select the best answer.
- political division in U.S.
 - POLITICAL DIVISON POST-9/11
 - Post-9/11 USA
 - The Great Rift: Political Division in Post-9/11 America
19. Which sentence contains a correct APA in-text citation? Select the best answer.
- The author argued that nanotechnology already permeates our society (Vazquez, 2014).
 - Messenger (page 43, 2014) maintained that “we are on the very brink of a nanotechnology revolution” (para. 14).
 - Rodriguez et al. (2012, no page) explained how nanotechnology and artificial intelligence are already being used in governmental research studies.
 - Latish stated, “Nanotechnology could turn heart bypass surgery into a routine outpatient procedure” (2016 - p.245).
20. Evaluate the following book citation:
- H. Cleveland, (2014). *Contributing to the advancement of theoretical physics*. Yale University Press.
- Which section contains an error in APA format?
- There are no errors in this citation
 - Yale University Press.
 - Contributing to the advancement of theoretical physics.
 - H. Cleveland,

Free Response

21. Think of the last time you looked up information for research purposes. What steps did you take to ensure this information was accurate?
22. In our increasingly interconnected world, there is a vast amount of information available to us in a matter of seconds via the internet. Inevitably, a lot of the information that comes from the internet is inaccurate and heavily opinionated. Describe some of the steps you can take to determine the credibility of information that comes from the internet and how to detect biased information.
23. Assume that you are given the data for the favorite restaurants of five hundred individuals and tasked with presenting the information graphically. What type of graphical display would you use? Why?
24. Describe some ways in which a graph can be misleading. What are the intentional or unintentional factors that can contribute to misleading graphs? How can you avoid creating misleading graphs?
25. Define *mean*, *median*, and *mode*. In what situations would it be appropriate to use mean, median, or mode to convey the “average” of a set of data?
26. What does the standard deviation tell us about a data set? What is the difference between a data set with a small standard deviation and a data set with a large standard deviation?

27. Look up the statistics on salaries of graduates with your major. How did you ensure the relevance of the source you used? What are the credentials of the author of the source? Is there potential bias in the information?
28. What are the advantages of using APA style for sociological research?
29. Find two or more books with three or more authors. Write a paragraph that references these books and create APA-style references for each book within the paragraph.