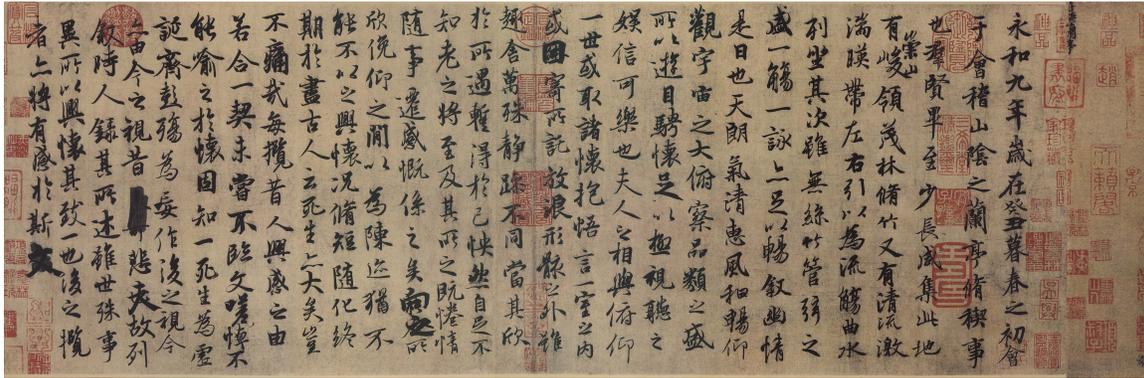


## Homework

Homework is a familiar academic requirement best seen as a formative exercise. It is designed to give you the freedom to explore how you relate to the rest of the world and how you express that relationship. It is the bridge between confronting new information and internalizing analysis.



Wikipedia : Lantingji Xu

### Guidelines for Submitting Homework

Use a word processor to prepare your homework.

Include all required analyses and graphics.

Include ALL R code that you used to generate any statistics or graphics that you have included in your report (and this even includes the R code which is being supplied to help you do your homework). This is called *reproducible research*, and it is becoming a very important element of modern science. The idea is that other investigators can readily reproduce your results.

*Intellectual honesty* is always a major concern. Give explicit credit to any outside resources that you used to prepare your work.

Many students find that working in small groups is a big help in boosting their energy levels, and you are encouraged to do so, but at the final moment when your fingers hit the keyboard it becomes an individual effort. All submitted homework must strictly be your own personal work, apart from properly acknowledged additional sources.

Homework is ALWAYS due on Friday, and just what is due on a particular Friday can be calculated from the class schedule by looking for the material covered in the three previous boxes.

You are ALWAYS free to take advantage of an *automatic extension* to the immediately following Monday, to accommodate official team trips to other cities, unexpected illness, or the occasional sleeping for two days instead of one.

Homework submitted after the relevant automatic extension date will not contribute to your grade.

Method of submission : You can always submit printed homework, just like the old-timers used to do, but let's see if we can't save a few trees by borrowing a few electrons instead. Make a pdf file of your completed homework, and save it with a name like **Stat204 Jane Doe hw chap 2.pdf**. Now email that file to me at [cparrish@sewanee.edu](mailto:cparrish@sewanee.edu) with a subject line like **Stat204 Jane Doe hw chap 2**.

My email client will catch it, notice the symbol **Stat204**, and sort it into the homework folder for this class.

There are three main tracks for making progress towards our goal of becoming statistically sophisticated : reading the text, doing the homework and classwork exercises, and writing (very) short essays on statistics in the modern world. Much of the learning happens as you sort through your newly formed statistical ideas, seeking to construct an analysis appropriate to the exercise at hand. The value is not confined to obtaining a correct final result. Here is an interesting statistical hypothesis that we might be able to examine as we move further into this course : The quality of homework submissions is an accurate predictor of exam grades. Hmmm. Maybe we can test that hypothesis.

### Essays

From time-to-time we will write short essays on topics relating our study of statistics to events in this rapidly developing world. The guidelines for these essays are simple. They must directly address the topic, and they must be written with a word processor. They must be at least half a page long and no longer than one full page, and they are to be submitted as pdf documents. Apart from those guidelines, the format, content, and style are determined by your own individual approaches. An excellent place to start is the command line of Google Chrome. As you explore suggested references, be sensitive to a hierarchy of trusted sources (NYTimes, BBC, Der Spiegel, United Nations, Pew Charitable Trusts). Notice how graphic images contribute to your understanding or engagement. Can you establish that sort of projection with your own essays?