Terrell: I’ve only got a couple of things to talk about tonight; mostly I want to focus on Case study 3 coming up.
Terrell: OK - let me give you some background on Case study 3.
Terrell: In the past I’ve sent out case studies with one dataset; obviously that means everyone should have
Terrell: turned in the same answers.
Terrell: I know you’ll be shocked to hear that some folks worked together and two things happened. First,
Terrell: sometimes they got an answer wrong; when they did, a lot of people got it wrong!
Terrell: Second, by not completely understanding the material, they didn’t do as well on the final as they
Terrell: should have.
Ron: I’ve had that in my classes. I divide the grade and give each half ;)
Judith: Is working together allowed?
Terrell: Given that, on the case studies that require computation, I try to create ways to give everyone a
Terrell: unique dataset.
Terrell: There’s no answer to that question. You would like to think that everyone learns and understands
Terrell: the material however they go about it.
Terrell: In the third case, I have a rudimentary way of having you create a unique dataset. Later in the term,
Terrell: I’ll have you use a random number generator.
Ron: I liked the idea of adding the student’s age to the 1st column
Ron: It was unfortunate that you had 3 old guys to screw up the calculations
Judith: Case study 4 uses a random number generator.
Terrell: Right - I have a random number generator that someone created for me and I’ll be posting it to the
web-site. It works better than the one that’s listed on there now.
Terrell: Ok - just a couple of things I need to point out about the case.
Terrell: First, follow the instructions. It tells you what to include on the answer sheet; please limit it to what’s
Terrell: asked for.
Terrell: Creating the table is easy, just as it says, add your age to the values in column 1 and get column 3.
Terrell: the first three questions are very clear.
Terrell: The 4th and 5th questions, however, require some explanation.
Terrell: In question 4, I’m asking that you calculate a z score for a value of 42.
Terrell: I don’t want you to go back and add a value of 42 to your table, I just want you to use the mean and
Terrell: the standard deviation that you’ve already computed and compute a z score for the value of 42.
Terrell: The same holds true for the T score in item 5 - don’t add a value of 48 to the table; use the values
Terrell: you’ve already computed. In this case, you’ll have to compute a z score using the value 48 and then
Terrell: compute the T score from it.
Terrell: The point is, once you’ve created the data table, there’s no need to go back and change it.
Terrell: You generally measure different things with interval and ratio data. Given that, I’m not sure why you
Terrell: would want to add two values together that are measuring two different things.
Ron: Slight technical question?
Ron: According to your book there’s only two types of quantitative data
Ron: Or is it a nonsensical term?
Ron: can you sum interval data with ration data and derive a valid sum?
Ron: ratio
Ron: data
Terrell: You generally measure different things with interval and ratio data. Given that, I’m not sure why you
Terrell: would want to add two values together that are measuring two different things.
Ron: right, that’s what I wanted to confirm
Ron: thanks!
Terrell: The easiest way to avoid having to worry about it is to simply consider both of them quantitative;
Terrell: that makes the discussion moot.
Terrell: After you create that table, you can see the questions related to it are very simple.
Terrell: In the third table, you see rankings of football teams; you don’t have to modify that table to answer
Terrell: the questions.
Terrell: Now, let’s talk about how we actually do these computations.
Terrell: As you’ve seen in my book, I focus on using software to do these calculations for us but also show
Terrell: you how to do it manually.
Terrell: How you do it for your assignment is up to you. You have access to the Statpak software on our
web-site; most of you have Excel and there are myriad other statistical software packages that are available.
Terrell: FYI, next winter I’m going to better focus this and require all students to buy the student version of SPSS.

Judith: That’s a great idea. It makes it easier to follow the book.

Terrell: In any event, keep in mind the degree of precision between your manual calculations and those calculated by software.

Ron: unsolicited comment: good idea - SPSS is a great package

SLong: What is the advantage of using SPSS over Excel?

Terrell: As some of us already know (no names mentioned), we don’t always come up with exactly the same calculations by hand as we do with the computer.

Terrell: Hold that thought; I’ll get right to it.

Judith: You can mention my name - I’m a big girl

Terrell: OK, now that the culprit is out of the closet! LOL!

Terrell: Actually, what Judith experienced is very common; it happens every term to those ambitious enough to do the calculations by hand and then using the computer.

Judith: I spent a lot of time worry over those numbers.

Terrell: The computer is far more precise and carries decimal positions out way further than we do by hand. Obviously, because of that you’ll see there are differences in the computer results and the manual results.

Terrell: Usually these differences are small and are simply caused by rounding errors.

Terrell: I always allow for error of this type so don’t worry if you experience it.

Terrell: Judith - you’re to be commended; like I said, you only experience the problem if you try to do it both ways.

SLong: I realize that a computer is more consistent and accurate, I just wondered if you already have a working knowledge of Excel would you need to learn another package

Judith: I wanted to understand the problem. That was the only way I could.

duggan: sorry I’m late. My brother-in-law had a heart attack today and I just got home from the hospital.

Terrell: The Excel/SPSS/SAS/Minitab, etc, etc debate over which software to use is a classic. Most people use whatever they’re comfortable with.

Terrell: wow! that’s terrible, is he OK?

Terrell: Like I said, I’m sending out a transcript - if you don’t want to be here, take off.

duggan: yes he had it at the hospital while visiting his aunt.

Terrell: It would be completely understandable.

duggan: aunt

Terrell: Well, I guess if it has to happen that would be the ideal place. That’s still bad news though.

SLong: I did not want to prolong the debate, I know sometime another application will be developed to specifically address a short coming of an existing one. I was not sure if this was the case with SPSS.

Terrell: Like I said, if you need to leave or whatever, no problem. You’ll be getting the transcript as soon as this is over.

duggan: yes it is but he wants to go home now.

Terrell: That’s good news.

Terrell: Ok - back to Excel vs SPSS.

Terrell: You can do most of the statistical procedures with Excel that you can with SPSS. The only problem is, in Excel, you have to set up the commands at the cell level.

Terrell: In SPSS, everything is driven by the drop-down menus.

Terrell: If you’re comfortable with Excel, it’s not a problem to use it. I’ve found that most people find SPSS much easier to use though.

SLong: Okay, that makes a difference. I can see the value of learning the tool.

Terrell: There are other packages (SAS/Minitab/BDMP/Statpak, etc) that are also good.

Ron: I’ve used Excel for over 10 years. I LOVE SPSS

Terrell: The one available on the web-site, Statpak, is rudimentary but very easy to use and understand.

Terrell: SPSS is definitely the best and I’ve used most of them at one point or another.

Judith: You can get a free 30 day full trial version of SPSS at their web site.

Terrell: Right, it’s available there. I imagine you could some how figure how to download consecutive copies of it to cover the rest of the term. I’m no technical guru but I’m sure some of the more devious minds (spelled "Rogate") can figure it out!

Judith: Me too!

Ron: Why Dr. Terrell, I’m surprised!

Terrell: I’m editing that out of the transcript - no one can prove I said it, LOL!

Judith: We heard it. What will you give us not to tell?

Terrell: You’ve got me - guilty as charged!

Terrell: Actually, we all know John - he will be ecstatic when he hears!

Ron: Yeah, you’re right there!

Terrell: OK - that about covers the next case study. Let me say a few things about Task 4 (Assignment 3).
Terrell: As I pointed out in my review of Assignment 2 (Task 3), I paid close attention to your component parts. That’s because, as you’ll see, the section on the sample is expanded in Assignment 3; the instrumentation is expanded in Assignment 4 and the procedure/methodology is expanded in the 5th assignment.

Terrell: Given the feedback you’ve already received, you should be in good shape for putting together these submissions.

Terrell: In particular, the 3rd assignment (Task 4) is very straight-forward. You just need to simply spell out where your sample is coming from and how you’re going to select them. Be sure to provide demographic data, etc, where applicable.

Terrell: As you can see on page 120 in the Gay book, the assignment is very brief but contains a lot of good information.

Terrell: Again, given what I’ve already told you, I cannot anticipate anyone having a problem with this submission.

Terrell: Talking about Task 3 and Case 3 takes us up to the end of the month.

Terrell: We’ll have another chat session before case 4 and assignment 4 are due.

Terrell: I’ll also be sending out specific instructions on what needs to be done for Assignment 4 when there is no real instrumentation that needs to be used.

Judith: Are you going to send out more case studies?

Terrell: How many have I sent out so far?

Judith: Up to case study 4

Terrell: OK - I’ll send out 5 and 6 soon; I need to make a couple of changes based on comments from the Winter Institute group.

Terrell: I’ve talked about everything I need to say - do you have questions?

Judith: How much lead time will we have for the final?

Terrell: About a month. For example, the Winter term is over 6/3 and I’m sending out the final on 4/27. We’ll talk more about it at the second meeting.

Terrell: That’s one benefit of the cluster - you get to see me again in person so we can cover things like that. I see the institute group the first week and then they’re gone until the next term.

Terrell: more questions?

Judith: Don’t forget to answer my email about z scores

Terrell: Right - I think I just sent that to you.

Judith: Thanks

Terrell: OK - I’m giving up unless you two have anything else that needs to be addressed.

Judith: Nope. Have a good nite.

SLong: I’m done

Terrell: You too, let me know if you have questions, etc.

Terrell: Always remember the forums are there for your use!