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Prof. Long

Honors Math

Proposal

In the ongoing discussion and research of mathematical ways to determine the hopefulness of Newport, Kentucky’s Census tract 505, a survey is the most common and likely way to achieve the gathering of the information we need. Having experts in this field come in and look over and share their thoughts on our survey questions and way of going about collecting the information made the task seem more achievable and informative. Having that reassurance in our current progress and the mathematical reasoning and explanation of what exactly the patterns we discover though the survey mean, make it the most effective tool to gather information.

I find the most necessary questions to ask in our survey to be:

1. “How much freedom do you believe you possess over your life?” with a scale of 1-5, 1 being little freedom to make your own decisions on the tasks you have to do throughout the day and 5 being you have complete freedom over your daily activities and chose your job for your own interest instead of need.
2. “Do you feel as if you are an integral part of the community you live in?” letting this be a yes or no question because causing the person to really think and determine if they believe it to be yes or no is a good measure of their feelings.
3. “Do you have at least one person you can confide in or vent to if needed?” I would also let this be a yes or no question.
4. “Do you consider your interactions with others in the community as positive, negative, or neutral?” circling one of the options with it being clear that this is the OVERALL feeling of your interactions, not letting one bad encounter make your interactions negative.
5. “Are basic needs such as shelter, food, and clothing available to you?” I would set this question on a scale of 1-5, 1 being that none of your basic needs are met and 5 that all are and with little struggle of achieving them.

I find those five questions to cover a broad amount of information we are looking for in a short amount of time. To ask them we should use clipboards and break into teams of at least two to cover two streets (being the minimum), we will assign the two people their streets making sure both east and west side are being covered and also that we know there will be no overlapping and less likelihood to survey the same person twice and also to get a better range of people in the area or to survey people as they are entering or leaving a football game in the area or a mixture of both. After answering our survey we should make a small prize available to the people so that they have some incentive to do the survey and do it with more of an interest, something such as suckers or another type of candy, or something inexpensive that is enjoyable to a large variety of people.

After collecting the data of hopefully 200+ people, we will analyze it ourselves to see if we can discover any patterns and then hand it over the the people how came to speak Friday so that it can be viewed twice making sure the evidence found is consistent and correct. Then, once we have our conclusion we will have a better understanding of the people’s actual problems therefore being able to possibly help them. We can make our discoveries available to classes who have been doing similar research of the area and for future classes of this nature so that back tracking will be minimal.

In reading fellow classmates’ proposals I found Marisa and Robin’s stuck out to me the most. Marisa commented on how the BCC people pointed out obvious but important aspects when creating a survey that are easily overlooked such as going the people some sort of incentive and the use of a Likert scale. Which lead me to want to include an incentive into my proposal survey, nothing expensive just something such as a sucker etc. Both Robin and Marisa agree that the survey should be taken in a place with a diverse demographic. However, Marisa was more specific in saying that it should be a football game like discussed with the BCC professor Friday. This makes me consider altering the placement of the survey in my proposal plan to a football game instead of streets on both areas of 505 to be able to better confirm a variety in demographics.