

Chapter 6: Developing Hypotheses

Exercises

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Exercise 1: Rewriting Hypotheses

Below are a number of different empirical statements that you should try to “make better”, as we did together in the section **Crafting Good Hypotheses**. The goal is to get the correct structure of a clear, testable empirical hypothesis; whether or not the expected relationship makes intuitive sense is only a side concern. Underneath each statement, suggested values for the variables and the unit of analysis are provided to help you construct the hypotheses. You do not need to use all of the variable values provided when crafting hypotheses. You might want to consider slightly different versions of the suggested values; for example, instead of good or bad, you might use better or worse.

Exercise 1.a

There is a relationship between residential location and belief in the cause of climate change.

- Residential location: near an ocean, not near an ocean
- Belief in the cause of climate change: higher belief climate change caused by human activity, lower belief climate change caused by human activity
- Unit of analysis: individuals

Exercise 1.b

Diverse workforces are related to companies' profits.

- Workforces: diverse, not diverse
- Profits: higher, lower
- Unit of analysis: companies

Exercise 1.c

There's a relationship between pollution and violent crime in cities.

- Pollution: high, low
- Violent crime: high, low
- Unit of analysis: cities

Exercise 1.d

Countries with free health care have lower economic growth.

- Health care cost: free, not free
- Economic growth: high, low
- Unit of analysis: countries

Exercise 1.e

Bounties for rats is related to the number of rats in a city.

- Bounties: bounty, no bounty
- Rats: more, fewer
- Unit of analysis: cities; might also substitute in counties, provinces, or countries

Exercise 2: Beginning with Variables

In this exercise, you need to create a good hypothesis using two variables. Intuition about the relationship between the two variables is helpful, but again we are concentrating on developing good empirical hypotheses; which we can test to determine if they have merit or not. As in the previous exercise, values for the variables and the unit of analysis are provided to assist in the formation of hypotheses. Again, you do not need to use all the values and you may consider alternatives to some of the suggested values and words.

Exercise 2.a

Write a good hypothesis using the following:

- Summer internship: paid, unpaid
- Family wealth: wealthy, poor
- Unit of analysis: college students

Exercise 2.b

Write a good hypothesis using the following:

- City taxes: high, low
- School quality: better, worse
- Unit of analysis: cities

Exercise 2.c

Write a good hypothesis using the following:

- Political stability: stable, unstable
- Infectious disease outbreaks: control, not control
- Unit of analysis: countries

Exercise 2.d

Write a good hypothesis using the following:

- Social protest: violent, not violent
- Media coverage of social protest: receive media coverage, do not receive media coverage
- Unit of analysis: social protests

Exercise 2.e

Write a good hypothesis using the following:

- Unemployment level: high, low
- Social unrest: higher, lower
- Unit of analysis: countries

For the answers see **Chapter 6 - Answers to Exercises**.