Trish Auletta
EDU 5655 Data Analysis I and EDU 7211 Data Analysis II
Fall 2015
Francesco Ianni, Ed.D

REFLECTION:

Course Description

"This course provided an introduction to the principles of statistical inquiry. Students formulated research questions and hypotheses and used descriptive and inferential statistics to investigate the research reports summarizing and interpreting the results of the analysis. Students had hands-on use of computer technology and SPSS to organize and analyze data. Students learned to use measures of central tendency and variability, standard scores, the normal distribution, correlation and regression."

EDU-5655 & 7211 challenged this cohorts quantitative deficits and provided us with the knowledge, comfort, and experience to begin dabbling with statistical analysis and finding the "stories" that data can tell when manipulated. One of the suggested texts, "Statistics for People who Hate Statistics" actually made me laugh and relieved some anxiety on the first night.

I can't say that I fell in love with statistics, or that I have a sudden comfort with using statistics in my own research, but I can say with absolute certainty that I began reading research with a different "eye". With knowledge of statistics comes the ability to see that how data is collected, from whom it collected, and how it is interpreted as a means to expose whether the king really does have clothes on or if we are just being led to believe so with the data that is being given to us. Perhaps a different data set will tell an entirely different story?

The knowledge of the power of statistical analysis brings a different view and better understanding of how situations can be turned into data that can truly tell a story. For me, I also have a greater appreciation of how I can use data analysis in my dissertation as well as in my job to communicate my "story" in a way that can be accessed for greater understanding.