

## FAHA Assignment • Chapter 5 • Case Study: Capitalism & Democracy

*This is our first data analysis question! Please show your work. Provide screenshots of the word searches and a URL link to your newspaper archive. Write down the numbers that you use in your calculations. The text of your answer should not exceed 500 words.*

1. Pick two ideas (concepts) to investigate. You will study how the prevalence of these ideas rise and fall over time (1900 - 2000) in a newspaper, mirroring the capitalism and democracy case study. Describe the two ideas in a broad sense, so that we all have a shared understanding.

2. Operationalize these two ideas by choosing words that you think would signal the presence of the idea in newspaper articles. Some ideas may be difficult to operationalize with only one word, so you may choose up to five words per idea. (Your chosen words can be in any language, as long as they match point 4 below.)

3. Make the case that these words represent a good operationalization. Imagine you must defend your strategy to a grumpy humanities professor who is questioning your choices. Try to anticipate their criticism. (For example, if you want to track the notion of race in America using the word "Black", the grumpy professor might object: "Hey, wait, but you're going to find articles about fashion and Coco Chanel's little black dress!")

Identify at least two objections and address them as best you can, i.e. how would you avoid this issue or not allow it to influence your analysis. If an objection stands, i.e. you cannot resolve it (eg., "black" above) then you may need to try different ideas or words.

4. Identify a newspaper with an available archive. Find the number of articles that contain the words at three time points: the years 1900, 1950, and 2000. You will have numbers for word1-1900, word1-1950, word1-2000, word2-1900, etc. Find the total number of articles in the archive in those same years, using "and" or "the". You will have numbers for "and"-1900, "and"-1950, "and"-2000. Divide each "word" article number by its corresponding total article number for that year, eg. word1-1950 divided by "and"-1950. Record that fraction. Create a table of values for easy reference.

[Bonus: Identify more than one newspaper, perhaps in a different country (or region) from the first, and perform the same analysis described.]

If your newspaper archive doesn't go back to 1900, you are welcome to try a different set of three years. If you can't find an appropriate archive, try *The New York Times*.

### Grading Rubric

- (Part 1) Two ideas are clearly and succinctly presented. +1
- (Part 2) An operationalization is clearly presented (e.g., we know the precise words that will be used to track the ideas). +2
- (Part 3) Two or more potential objections to the operationalization (word choice) are clearly presented and resolved. +2
- (Part 4) There is evidence of the word counts made. For the three years studied, there is:
  - a count of the number of articles in which the word(s) in idea 1 appears. +1
  - a count of the number of articles in which the word(s) in idea 2 appears. +1
  - an approximate count of the total number of articles in that year. +1
- (Part 4) The word frequencies are computed for each year and displayed in a table. For the three years studied, there is
  - the fraction of articles containing the word(s) in idea 1. +1
  - the fraction of articles containing the word(s) in idea 2. +1
- Total points: X out of ten