

**Economics 224-001/002**  
**Assignment 6**

Note: Due by 12:00 p.m. Dec. 5, 2008, in the Economics office. It may be handed in late (by noon to the Economics office) on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> with a 10% penalty, but after that late assignments will be assigned a grade of 0. (This assignment is out of 60 marks.)

**THIS IS AN OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENT.** If you do NOT do this assignment, your mark out of 35 for the assignments will be based on your marks in the first 5 assignments. If you do this assignment, we will look at the 6 assignments, and take your best 5 grades.

Find an article in a recent newspaper or magazine that uses and presents statistics as part of the article. The article must be published in English since Sept. 1, 2008. It can be in print or on the web (but web articles are less likely to have graphs in place). It cannot be an article we have handed out or discussed in class. It should be more than summary statistics, it should include some form of hypothesis or correlation/causation relationship.

Do each of the following.

- Include a photocopy/printout of the article.
- Summarize the article in 10 lines or less, focusing on the statistical analysis.
- Identify and explain which of the statistical concept(s) we have learned in this class are used in the article.
- Write out a proper hypothesis statement on what data is being presented. Can you tell from the article if the hypothesis is rejected or accepted? If so, explain how you know. If not, explain what you would need to see in the article to test the hypothesis. (Hint: remember we can use confidence intervals to test hypotheses.)
- Does the article lie with its statistics, or misinterpret its statistics? If so, explain how.
  - If the article does NOT lie or misinterpret, rewrite the crucial paragraph and create your own misleading lie or misinterpretation.

Please type up your answer, and please take some time in composing your answer. Part of your mark will depend on how well you explain things.