

ST 810A, SPRING 2004
PREPARATION FOR STATISTICAL RESEARCH
ASSIGNMENT 1, DUE TUESDAY, 2/3/04

You have been assigned at random a topic in Statistics. Using any resources at your disposal, including but not limited to those discussed in class, carry out a search of the literature with the objectives of gaining a broad understanding of the topic area and identifying the 10 most important papers in the topic area. Depending on whether the area is relatively “new” or “established,” such papers might be found in the literature in the recent past or may go back several decades. This is for you to determine.

Of course, there is no strictly “right answer,” as different people may view the relative importance of papers differently. Your choices should be based on your impressions after researching the topic area.

You should do the following (please *type* using double-spacing.)

- Write a short (1/2 page or less) summary overview of the topic area, describing the nature of the area and scientific settings and questions to which work in the area is relevant.
- Following the summary overview, for each of the 10 papers you select, provide the full reference (you may wish to consult the References section of a paper in a popular journal such as *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *Biometrics*, etc., for examples of the style of giving a full citation of a journal article). Write a brief paragraph summarizing what the paper is about and why it is important within the context of the topic area. You may wish to place these paragraphs in order according to the “age” of the paper, with more recent papers following older ones.
- Choose one of the earlier papers in your list. Write a brief report (≤ 3 double-spaced typed pages) recounting how the work in this paper influenced subsequent work in the topic area to the present. This report should not just consider the 10 papers you have identified, but should more broadly describe the impact of the chosen paper on the area as a whole. Make sure to provide a list of references of any papers you cite in this report using a style similar to that in a journal article.