

Social Science Reasoning and Quantitative Literacy Learning Goals

Teaching Social Science Reasoning (SSR) and Quantitative Literacy (QL): The Role of Collaborative Groups*

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SSR QL Table 1. Social Science Reasoning and Quantitative Literacy Learning Goals*

SSR	QL	1. Being able to recognize the difference between normative and empirical statements
SSR	QL	2. Being able to distinguish social research and data from impressions and anecdotes
SSR	QL	3. Understanding variables and the difference between independent and dependent variable
SSR	QL	4. Understanding and being able to discern the difference between correlation and causation
SSR	QL	5. Understanding and being able to apply probabilistic thinking
SSR	QL	6. Understanding the concept of contingency
	QL	7. Being able to describe a variable (graphs, central tendency, dispersion)
	QL	8. Ways of knowing if there are relationships between variables (graphs, measures of association)
	QL	9. Test hypothesis with data; know how level of measurement relates to statistical technique
	QL	10. Understanding and being able to apply a sense of the relative magnitude of numbers
SSR	QL	11. Being able to relate quantitative data to theoretical ideas
SSR		12. Being able to draw defensible conclusions from the analyses
SSR	QL	13. Understanding and being able to apply the ethical principles that guide research
SSR	QL	14. Understanding the limitations of statistical techniques for understanding the social world
SSR	QL	15. Being able to write up the findings of scholarly research
SSR	QL	16. Understanding the limitations of any research study, including one's own
SSR	QL	17. Being able to use quantitative reasoning to participate in the conversation of the discipline
SSR	QL	18. Being able to ask good new sociological questions

*Note: The first two columns identify which goals best fit with SSR, QL or both.

Source: Teaching Social Science Reasoning and Quantitative Literacy: The Role of Collaborative Groups

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URL: <http://tso.sagepub.com/content/34/1/39.short>

doi: 10.1177/0092055X0603400104

Teaching Sociology January 2006 vol. 34 no. 1 39-53