

Aiden Martinez

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Dr. Bradley

Reflection #1

When conducting research, often researchers choose to work in the field over a controlled lab environment. One of the main reasons for this choice is the practicality of fieldwork; the numerous different variables all influencing the data being collected. This approach is closer to how the variables work in the real world, with different factors constantly changing how data operates.

Another thing to consider when conducting research is the ethical protections given to confederates and testers. We often understand ethics as a linear cause-and-effect relationship between researchers and participants, however this can lead to harm. For example, a researcher could use deception to create an environment that does not accurately represent the real world, leading to poor results and useless data.

In our survey, the dataset we are using is relatively small, as our group is attempting to understand how people prefer greenspace, including what type and how it is used. This is because we are looking at urban/suburban populations in the East Saint Louis and Belleville area. In contrast, many surveys such as the census take place on a nationwide scale, collecting data from urban, suburban, and rural populations.

Many of the residents of the area we are conducting our survey on have family members or relatives that live in areas with less urban decay. These interactions between individuals within a system could potentially skew results, as prior interactions and living conditions have the ability to change results and data. However, it cannot be directly linked to this phenomenon, as we are collecting open-ended responses to the survey and categorizing the results based on written responses.

We will find participants within the region using county lines, giving the opportunity for everyone in this region to respond. By doing this we provide the residents of this region regardless of social or economic status to voice their beliefs on the topic.