

Assignment due Friday, January 29th.

An important aspect of this Quantitative Reasoning course will be to look at real-life data, charts and graphs. You will be asked to explain verbally and in writing what patterns you see or what facts you find interesting and why.

Study the charts contained in "Fast Facts Fall 2008" by going to the UMass Boston Office of Institutional Research webpage http://www.oirp.umb.edu/quick_facts.html

Look for things about UMass Boston that you find surprising or interesting. After you've studied all the charts, pick one and answer the following questions:

a) What is the title of the chart you picked _____

b) What category of facts did you select in this chart as surprising or interesting?

c) Explain briefly in complete sentences why you found this item surprising or interesting.

d) Imagine that you are a newspaper reporter writing an article. On the reverse side of this page make up a headline and write a brief news story consisting of a lead paragraph of 3 to 5 sentences about what you've discovered about UMass. Be sure to mention in your article the category and numerical data you chose to focus on.

Example

Fall 2008 Faculty

| | Full-Time Faculty | | Part-Time Faculty | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Female | 222 | 48% | 260 | 58% |
| Male | 240 | 52% | 191 | 42% |
| Total | 462 | 100% | 451 | 100% |

My response: *I chose the chart labeled "Faculty." I found it interesting that there are almost as many part-time teachers as full-time teachers at UMass, 451 compared to 462. I also found it interesting that among full-time faculty, males are in the majority at 52%; but that the balance is reversed among the part-time faculty, where females make up the majority at 58%.*

(continued on other side)

It's OK to use the first person "I" when writing the response but NOT when you write your "newspaper" article. Journalist never use "I" but rather use an objective 3rd person voice. See as an example, my "newspaper" article below.

My sample newspaper article

PART-TIME TEACHERS MAKE UP NEARLY HALF THE FACULTY AT UMASS BOSTON

UMass Boston hires almost as many part-time faculty members as full-time faculty members. This information is revealed in information from the University's Institutional Research department showing that 451 part-time faculty members are employed, versus 462 full-time faculty members. It is interesting to note that the majority of full-time teachers are male, 52%. The reverse is the case, however, among the part-time faculty, where 260-- or 58%--are female.

Write your "newspaper article" here, or type it and attach it to this page.



When you are done, make sure your name is on the front and that you've completed each step. Turn this in at the beginning of class on Friday, January 27th.

