Calibrated Peer Review Instructions and FAQs

Why do we want you to use CPR?

CPR allows you to write and critically read reports on statistical analyses. In the real world, this is how you will work with statistics. No boss is going to ask you to do #4 in the book and then check your numerical answer in the back of the book. Your boss will ask you to analyze some data and make a report at a meeting. It’s not enough to know how to calculate a statistic or to use SPSS, you also need to be able to explain what your results mean. You will also read about statistics in many different forms in your real life—in newspapers, doctors’ offices, in reports at work. You need to be a critical consumer of these statistics because not all of them mean what the author thinks they mean. One of the main goals of this course is to make you a critical reader, writer, and thinker. CPR is an excellent tool for this purpose.

How do you use CPR?

Go to: http://cpr.ics.purdue.edu/CPRLocal/

Log in with your Purdue username and password.

The first time you use CPR, you will need to complete the tutorial and pretest. You will then be able to see your assignment and get to work.

CPR has four deadlines per assignment, and three of these dates are important: the text entry deadline, the assignment end time which is the peer and self-reviews deadline, and the request for regrade deadline (one week after the assignment ends).

The Writing portion of the assignment

Enter your text using the HTML formatting instructions. No graphs or SPSS output can be pasted into the document. Only text. Do not use inequality symbols (< or >) because HTML reserves these for other uses.

It is a good idea to write it in Word first, and then paste in a copy so that you have a backup copy in case something goes wrong. Sometimes CPR will time out if you take too long to type in the text, and then you might lose your work.

BE SURE TO HIT “SUBMIT” in order to have CPR accept your work.
HTML Tags for formatting your text:

<B>text</B> Displays the enclosed text in boldface.
<I>text</I> Displays the enclosed text in italics.
<SUB>text</SUB> Displays the enclosed text subscripted.
<SUP>text</SUP> Displays the enclosed text superscripted.
<P>text</P> Defines a paragraph.

(You don’t actually type the word “text” in the middle. That’s where you write your paragraph.)

If you want to include a link to a website, here is how you make that a clickable link:

<a href=url>text that you want to appear as link</a>

So, for example, if your url was: http://www.stat.purdue.edu/~csorola/stat301/
and you wanted the title of the site, "STAT 301 Course Website", to appear as a link, you would type the following:

<a href=http://www.stat.purdue.edu/~csorola/stat301/>"STAT 301 Course Website"</a>

and that would link you directly to the website through the title.

The Calibration part of the assignment

After the text-entering deadline, you will do the calibration part of the assignment. You will be given 3 assignments (written and previously evaluated by instructors) to evaluate using some specific grading questions. You will have to answer the yes/no questions and then also assign a 0-10 score at the end. You will be judged on how closely your evaluating skills match those of the instructor, so do not rush through this part.

For the overall rating, count up the number of YES answers you gave to the 20 grading questions. Multiply this number by 0.5 and round up to the nearest whole number to assign a score between 0 and 10.

If you do not do a good enough job on the calibration part of the assignment, you will have to repeat it until you get better. Each time you have to repeat a calibration, your calibration grade goes down, and the system rate you a poor reviewer.

Missing the calibrations deadline does not have a penalty, but your instructor will know if you miss the calibration deadline. Calibrations can be done any time before the peer review deadline.
The Reviewing part of the assignment

After you do the calibrations, you can immediately move on to the review part of the assignment. It is recommended that you keep your original assignment and all SPSS output handy so that you will be able to judge how well the other students analyzed their data.

You will be given 3 anonymous peers’ papers to evaluate. Use the same skills you used on the calibration. Be very careful and thoughtful. Your peers will not know who evaluated their papers, but your instructor will know. You are graded on how consistently you grade each paper compared to the other reviewers.

After you have done your 3 peer reviews, you will be asked to evaluate your own paper (“Self Assessment”). Be thorough and honest. You will be judged on how closely your evaluation of your work matches that of the three peers who evaluated your work.

Grade reports

After all the evaluations are finished and the last deadline is past, you will receive a grade report by logging back into CPR. This grade report will tell you how you did on each part of the assignment and show you the comments made by your peer reviewers.

If you have any concerns about the grade reports in the week after the reviewing is due, please e-mail your lecturer with a detailed explanation of the problem and what you propose as a solution. An e-mail stating: “I think I should have gotten a higher score because I worked really hard on this” will not help you. Cite specific parts of your paper and explain why it should be given a higher score. A good example of a detailed e-mail request welcomed by the lecturers would be: “Reviewer #2 said that I did not have the correct 5-number summary, but on line 5 of my report, I state the 5-number summary and it is the same as in the answer key.”

NOTE: If you are asking us to review the grade on your paper, you are essentially asking us to grade your paper from scratch and to assign a “fair” grade, not necessarily a higher grade. Your lecturer will assign the text a rating we feel it deserves based on the grading questions. This usually means that your overall grade will go up if your reviewers did not do a good job, but it could mean that your overall grade goes down. Make sure that you are fairly confident about what you are asking us to check. If we feel the text deserves a different rating, the grades of your reviewers may also be affected by this change. No grade is final until about one week after the reviewing is over.

Important Notes

The instructors and t.a.s will be participating in the system as anonymous students also. We will be peer evaluating your work, and you will peer evaluate ours.
We will also print out a random selection of the papers to check for cheating. Since this assignment is so important, we will fully prosecute any academic misconduct through the Office of the Dean of Students. Please produce work that represents what you truly understand.

CPR depends on all students finishing the assignments. If you do not submit a writing portion, you will not be allowed to continue on with the Calibration or Reviewing portions. If you do not complete the Calibrations, you will not be allowed to continue on with the Reviewing.

Problems should be reported immediately to your lecturer. Keep in mind that none of your lecturers are night owls, and we are not likely to respond immediately to an e-mail sent late at night. Do NOT wait until the last minute to access the assignment for the first time. Login problems will not be an excuse for missing an assignment.

Help is available during office hours and the evening help sessions. Please see the course website under “Office Hours” to get more details. Please note that the lecturers cannot read over every written report, so do not e-mail us with your report asking us to check to see if it is ok. If you have a specific question to ask, then ask us a specific, concise question. We won’t be able to read the whole thing over for you ahead of time. The guiding questions and the work we do in class should give you a good idea of what you should put into your report.

CPR does not work with the AOL browser. You can make your internet connection with AOL, but make sure your browser is Internet Explorer, Netscape or Firefox.

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CPR Frequently Asked Question from STAT 301 Students
Look here first before e-mailing your lecturer!

1. Where do I find the assignment I am supposed to be doing?

*After you log in to the CPR system, you will see the assignment.*

2. What do I do if I have technical difficulties?

*First of all, do not wait until the last minute to do the CPR assignment. If you have technical difficulties early in the week, it is a lot easier for us to help you. Nobody will be awake to help you at 11:30 pm on the night the assignment is due. You can attend office hours of any lecturer, you can ask your lecturer right before or after class, you can go to the t.a. help session the night the assignment is due (see course website), and you can e-mail CPRHelp@purdue.edu.*

3. What happens if I forget to do the writing part of the CPR?
You cannot do the calibrations and reviews without doing the writing part of the CPR. You will get a 0 on the whole assignment. This is one reason why it would be a good idea to submit at least a rough draft of a text in the beginning of the week. You can resubmit and improve your text as many times as you would like before the deadline, so there is no harm in getting something submitted early to make sure you don’t accidentally get locked out of the next stage of the assignment.

4. What happens if I forget to do the calibrations and reviews on the CPR?

You cannot get more than a 45/100 on the assignment without doing the calibrations and review. All 3 components of the assignment are very important.

5. What happens if I miss the calibration deadline? It wasn’t on my course schedule or on the course website.

Nothing happens if you miss the calibration deadline. You can do the calibrations anytime before the reviews are officially due. The calibration deadline is artificial. Calibrations and peer reviews are both officially due on the review deadline.

6. Why do I have to grade other students' work? Isn't that the teacher's job?

In the real world, there is no "teacher" with all the right answers to check your work. In the real world, you will have to evaluate your peers' work and decide on the quality. People who are good reviewers will have their comments valued more than people who are poor reviewers, just like in the algorithm for CPR. One of the main ways you will use statistics outside of STAT 301 is in evaluating the quality of other people's reports using statistics.

7. Why do we have to do Calibrated Peer Review anyway? Isn't this a math class? Shouldn't I just be able to work through a problem and give you the answer?

STAT 301 is not a math class! It is very important for you to be able to discuss statistical concepts in plain English in a way that will make sense to your boss, your coworkers, your clients, and the general public. It's not enough to put a box around the correct numerical answer. When you use statistics, you have to be able to explain what your work means in context and why it is valid.

8. Should I type my text up in the CPR system?

You can, but we don't recommend this. It's much better to type up your text in Word, save it there, and then copy and paste the text into the CPR system. Don't forget to use your HTML formatting when you paste it into CPR, too! You can't edit the text after you submit it to CPR. You would have to start over with a fresh submission. If you have your work saved in Word first, you can make minor edits there easily and then just copy and paste the edited version into CPR again.

9. How do I figure out what numerical score to give a student's paper?
There are 20 yes/no grading questions that match up to the 10 guiding questions at the beginning of the assignment. Count up your number of "yes" answers, multiply by 0.5, and round up to the nearest whole number to get the numerical score you should give the student's assignment.

10. Do spelling, grammar, and HTML formatting count towards my grade? If so, why?

Yes. Part of good communication is presenting your work correctly. Ten percent of the points given on your text will come from using correct spelling, grammar, and HTML formatting (at least paragraph breaks). Contact the OWL writing lab if you need writing help (http://owl.english.purdue.edu, 494-3723).

11. What am I supposed to write in the boxes for the reviewing questions?

In the calibrations and self-review, there are no boxes for you to type comments in. In the reviews of your peers, you are required to write comments in the boxes. If you answer “yes” to a grading question, then you can write something like “ok” or “yes” in the box unless you want to write a better explanation. If you answer “no” to a grading question, you must give a very specific explanation why you are answering “no.” You need to justify your reasoning.

12. If a student answered only half or part of the grading question correctly, do I mark “yes” or “no”?

The student needs to answer the whole question correctly to receive a “yes” answer. Be sure to give specific reasoning in the box if you mark “no” for a question. If part of the answer is right, state which part is right and which part is wrong. Be specific.

13. I only had 2 reviewers for my text (or one of the reviews of my work says “N/A”). Does this hurt my grade?

No, it doesn’t hurt your grade. The CPR system has a complicated algorithm to compute your text rating. It just makes the other reviewers’ scores worth more and ignores the missing review.

14. I got 0 out of 10 on one of the reviews I did of somebody else. How did this happen?

Your evaluation of the text was too different from the scores the other reviewers gave that text. If you’re sure your evaluation was good, explain why to your lecturer and ask for him/her to look into it. Maybe you were the most accurate reviewer, or maybe you made some mistakes and weren’t careful enough.

15. I got 0 out of 5 on one of the calibrations I did. How did this happen?

For the calibrations, there is an answer key. Your yes/no answers on specific questions are checked against this answer key, and your numeric score is checked against this answer key. You have to answer yes/no to the same questions we answer yes/no to in order to receive credit. Each assignment may be different, but usually you have to get 7 out of the 9 content questions correct,
and your numeric score has to be within 2 of what we said the text was worth. If you have to redo
the calibration one time, you can still get your full 5 points for that calibration. If you have to
redo the calibration 2 times and still fail, then you will get 0 out of 5 points for that calibration.

16. I disagree with how my text was graded, what should I do about it?

Within one week of the assignment ending, print out a CPR regrade form from the course
website and e-mail this to your lecturer with specific details about what you disagree with.
Instructors are glad to review any portion of your grade or assignment.

17. Is there any risk in asking for a regrade?

Yes. When you ask an instructor to regrade your text, the instructor will grade it with an honest
evaluation. Your score might go up, but it might go down. Be sure about what you want to
challenge before you e-mail your instructor, and look at the overall assessment of your text. For
many people a regrade does help their score, but only if they write a well-articulated argument
to their lecturer. The majority of students do not ask for a regrade on their assignments, but we
do want to make sure you agree with your score.

18. Can my grade change on CPR even if I don’t ask for a regrade?

Yes. If you did a bad job of reviewing a peer’s paper, and the student asks for a regrade, the
instructor may see that you did a bad job of reviewing and lower your reviewing score. However,
your score could go up if you were the 1 reviewer out of 3 who did an accurate job of reviewing
the text. If the instructor agrees with you, your reviewing score would go up.

19. Can I ask for a regrade on the text and the reviews, or just the text?

Your lecturer will be happy to regrade your text, your reviews, or both IF you give a good,
detailed presentation (by e-mail) about why your peers did not do an accurate job.