


Frequency Distribution Construction Executive Summary

- Find the data RANGE (largest – smallest value = RANGE)
- Find the class width in PSY270 by dividing the RANGE by 10
- Round the RANGE/10 value to a number which is a multiple of 10
- Determine where the lowest class should begin, namely, a number which is a multiple of 10 AND which will also be able to include the smallest value used to calculate the RANGE
- WORKING UPWARD, lowest values on the bottom up to largest values at the top, create as many class intervals as are necessary to include the largest value at the top that was used to calculate the RANGE
- Calculate the frequency with which each value in the data set occurs in each of your classes, also known as tallies 
- Set up a FREQUENCY column converting the tallies to numbers
- Calculate the total number of cases in your data set and record that as a sum at the bottom of your FREQUENCY column
- For a proportion column, divide each class frequency by the frequency total. Express your answer to 3 or more decimal places, e.g., .01887
- For a percent column, multiply the proportion value by 100, e.g., 1.887
- To get PERCENTILES requires that you determine CUMULATIVE FREQUENCIES, CUMULATIVE PROPORTIONS, & CUMULATIVE PERCENTS
- Always express CUMULATIVE PERCENTS to at least 3 decimal places and PERCENTILES as whole numbers.