Group Project Guidelines
COGS 14: Winter 2009

1. Groups should consist of 3 to 5 members. You can use the WebCT discussion board (click on the icon that looks like push-pin) to find collaborators. Groups should be formed and a project decided on by the Tuesday, Jan 27th. Each group will need to meet with David, Wen, or Kathleen (during lab or office hours) before January 27th to make sure that the project is acceptable.

2. There are three types of projects you can do: a survey, a test, or an analysis of existing data. An example of a survey would be to find out if women or men are more likely to prefer cats to dogs by asking people on library walk. An example of a test would be to find out if people can tell the difference between brand name and generic cola by conducting a controlled experiment. An example of an analysis of existing data would to see which of a set of factors (e.g., population density, unemployment rate, mean population age) best correlate with a city’s violent crime rate. Some sources of such information are the FBI and the US Census:

   http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm

   Note, you should keep your project SIMPLE! The tools we will cover in the class can only deal with simple comparisons and a simple project will enable you to focus on analyzing and reporting your project. Furthermore, though this should go without saying, do NOT choose a project that in any way might endanger you or your participants or involves collecting sensitive information about people.

3. As a group, you should collect your data and analyze it. If you do a survey, for each member of the group you should survey at least 12 people. If you do a test, for each member of the group, you should test at least 4 people. If you analyze existing data, for each member of the group you should do one analysis (e.g., a three person group should test if three different factors correlate with a city’s crime rate). You should have all your data collected by Thursday, February 26.

4. A write-up of the group project is due at the last lecture. You may turn in one write-up for your entire group (in which case you will all get the same grade). Or each member of the group can turn in an individual write-up (in which case each member of the group will be graded on his/her individual write-up). You will need to decide by Tuesday, March 3rd if you are going to write up the results by yourself or with other members of your group.