

Extra Credit

Correlation does not imply causation! Many reporters appear to be unacquainted with this fundamental principle. The popular press is filled with claims about how one phenomenon *causes* another when, in fact, the two variables are only correlated. The variables they write about *may* be causally related, but without an experiment we cannot know whether or how. Find your own example of this error in a newspaper or magazine. In no more than one typed page (double-spaced, one inch margins, 10 - 12 point font – hand-written papers will not be accepted), illustrate this problem. In the first paragraph briefly describe the research from your article. List the variables and the relation argued by the article's author. In the second paragraph, analyze the mistake. Point out the alternative possible explanations and argue for how someone might design an experiment so that a causal conclusion could be drawn. In some cases, it may not be possible to design an experiment. If this is the case, explain why. You **MUST** submit a copy of the article used as the basis for your paper.