

2106 Comments on Assignment # 1

1. Do not include too many numbers after the decimal. Example: use 4.56 instead of 4.558342317. But if the magnitude of the parameter is small use 0.0137 instead of 0.01.
2. Your Table must look **EXACTLY** like the template table given on line. Formatting, spacing between paragraph markers, left justified within cells for variable descriptions, centered in cells for numerical values, etc.
3. Include a title and table number for your table.
4. There should be no “x1”, “x17”, etc. in the text anywhere in the text. These are software specific and mean nothing to potential readers.
5. Precise variable definitions. Example: do not use something like “Seat belt use” instead use “Seat belt use indicator (1 if a seat belt was used; 0 otherwise)”. Also include units where appropriate.
6. Put tables on one page (do not have Tables spread out over two pages). The best approach is to include the tables after the text is presented (not having them in the text), with each Table on its own page.
7. Watch out for low-mean indicator variables (which is really the same as a high mean indicator). If you create an indicator variable, you should run a “dstat” command to check the mean. An example was in class for assignment 2 when only one person did not face at least LOS D. Since this variable has a very low mean it cannot be used in the model no matter what the t-stat.
9. Only 14 people chose the freeway, so you can get strange results when you use combinations of freeway-specific variables (distance if taking the freeway and traffic lights when taking the freeway, etc.)
10. Talk about specific values in your model (what the magnitude of the parameters) not just whether the effect is positive or negative.
11. Never report both t-statistics and standard errors. Select only one since they are redundant (if you know one you know the other).
12. Never, ever look at the correlation coefficient between the explanatory variable and the dependent variable, and use this coefficient to select explanatory variables.
13. Include NLOGIT output for your model (the final model and the commands for creating the variables you used).