

**14.11 SPRING 2006**  
**PUTTING SOCIAL SCIENCE TO THE TEST—FIELD EXPERIMENTS IN ECONOMICS**  
**ASSIGNMENT # 2**

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Due on Tuesday March 7, 2006

This assignment, the second step in your research program, is an opportunity (and a requirement) to focus in on a topic of interest.

1. Provide a one or two paragraph statement of the question/hypothesis that you think you would like to analyze experimentally.
2. Provide a literature review on what is known about this topic. You should at a minimum read at four to six papers on this subject (you can read more as the semester progresses). Most of these papers won't be on the 14.11 syllabus, but the papers on the syllabus will help guide you to other important work on the topic.
3. Now, attempt to frame a feasible experiment as precisely as you can that would potentially add to knowledge on this topic. A replication of an existing experiment is also acceptable. But it's always preferable to add some "twist" to make your work even more interesting.
4. We recognize that this is your first pass at this project, and it will not necessarily be easy. You will have next week to refine.
5. We will make available to you selected answers from the first assignment that show strong understanding of the research papers and/or excellent research ideas. You may also draw on these for inspiration.