A Measure of Civility

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Abstract

This paper describes a statistical study, conducted in the Chicago area through Craigslist, to measure civility among a given population subset (single women in this case). The results are correlated to various demographic factors to determine what parameter, if any, is most useful in predicting how civilized an individual's behavior will be.

Introduction

Obviously, for any given social situation, or any situation in general, the response to that situation will vary from one individual to the next. In fact, there are an infinite number of possible responses to any given situation. However, certain responses will always be more socially acceptable than other responses. Even across cultures, certain responses will be deemed acceptable human behavior and others will not. But confining consideration to a given culture, it is patent that certain responses will be considered generally acceptable or civilized behavior, while the others will not be. The number of possible civilized responses may be significant (even astronomical), as many options exist for responding to any social situation. However, given a finite number of choices, and provided that the choices are suitably distinct, one of the choices should always be more socially acceptable than the others.

Thus, a civilized individual, at least according to that society's standards, should always choose a specific response when given a finite number of sufficiently different options. To phrase it more simply, if a civilized individual is posed with a hypothetical situation, and is given 4 possible options to choose from, of which 3 are not considered socially acceptable, but the fourth option is generally considered to be civilized behavior, then that individual should always be able to recognize and choose the fourth option. But is there any way to predict whether an individual is civilized, other than by testing with hypothetical questions? Are there demographic factors that will accurately predict civility?

Experimental Setup

A series of 18 multiple-choice questions was prepared, and a subset population was chosen for evaluation. As described above, the questions were designed to measure civility, by providing 3 uncivilized options and 1 civilized option. The population chosen was the Chicago metropolitan area, with the subset for study being single women. The questions were posted on Craigslist (http://chicago.craigslist.org/) in the personals section of the Chicago version of the website. Many posts were necessary in order to gather sufficient data, from February 2010 to July 2013. A nominal prize was offered to provide individuals an incentive to respond. Demographic information was also collected from the respondents: age, height, weight, and race. Because the questions were very easy, it was decided not to collect statistical information concerning educational level, because even an uneducated person would still be able to distinguish between civilized and uncivilized behavior, simply by virtue of her assimilation within that society. However, to determine if the individual truly was a member of that society, information was collected concerning her origins (i.e., whether or not she was a native Chicagoan). In this way, foreigners could be removed from the statistical analysis, or have their responses studied separately.

Caveats

It should be noted that no attempt was made to study men, or to compare men and women in terms of civility (i.e., which is more civilized). This might be an area of further research. And, as mentioned above, only the Chicago area was studied. Further experiments might be conducted in other urban areas (other large cities) and also in rural areas to determine if responses significantly differ. For example, perhaps downstate Illinois is more civilized than the Chicago area, or vice versa.

Perhaps New York City or Los Angeles is more civilized than Chicago, or vice versa. Perhaps Europeans are more or less civilized than Americans (whether the Americans be Chicagoans or not); this can only be determined through further experimentation.

To provide a convenient forum for the testing, the Craigslist personals section was utilized. So by default, responses came from the subset population of single women. As it was necessary to specify the poster's (i.e., author's) age (mid-thirties), it was natural to expect the respondents to be approximately that age, ranging from their twenties to their forties. This is not unreasonable, or undesirable, as most singles (the subset population being examined) are within this range.

Test Questions

The test verbiage is presented below, as posted on Craigslist. Note that question 13 is not a hypothetical situation, but is rather more like a control question, regarding realistic views of gender relations. Also note that the correct answer is always "D", even for question 13; this simplified the grading. Because the test is so easy, it was assumed that an individual would not have to resort to blind guessing, and thus recognition of any answer pattern (e.g., always "D") would not be particularly significant. Also, in some of the Craigslist posts (experiment trials) the last 3 questions were presented as extra credit rather than numbers 16 through 18. Again, it is assumed that this had no significant effect on the responses; the test was still graded out of 18 (e.g., 15 correct base answers and 3 correct extra credit would give a score of 100%, not 120%).

Test

Choose the answer that is most nearly correct. Email with answers (e.g., 1=A, 2=B, 3=D, etc.). Also include the following information for statistical purposes: age, race, height, weight, and whether or not you are a native Chicagoan. If you achieve a passing score you will win a date with me. Good luck!

1. A personal acquaintance sends you an email, requesting a reply. A timely manner for that reply would be:
    a. Never; this is America, so you are not obligated to anyone for anything.
    b. A year; he'll just have to wait until it's convenient for you.
    c. Two months; you're a very busy woman.
    d. A few days, or a week at the outside.

2. You are on a date with a man, and in your opinion, it has been mediocre at best. At the end of the date he asks for your honest assessment of him. You should:
    a. Lie and tell him what you think he wants to hear; it's opposite's day so when he says he wants the truth, he really means the opposite.
    b. Say you need to use the restroom and sneak out the back door of the restaurant.
    c. Say you need to sleep on it, and swear by all that's holy that you'll call him the next day with your answer, never really intending to do so.
    d. Tell him the truth, in as tactful and diplomatic a way as you can.

3. A business acquaintance sends you an email, requesting a reply. A timely manner for that reply would be:
    a. Never; this is America, so you are not obligated to anyone for anything.
    b. Six months; he'll just have to wait until it's convenient for you.
    c. A month; you're a very busy woman.
    d. 24 to 48 hours.

4. You find a letter on the street just outside a mailbox. It obviously bounced off the mailbox lid instead of dropping in the slot; the foot traffic of passers-by has dislodged the envelope flap, which was loosely sealed to begin with. Inside you find a birthday card addressed to little Timmy, along with a brand new 50-dollar bill. You should:
    a. Throw away the card and keep the money; Timmy doesn't deserve it anyway.
    b. Keep the money, then track down the sender from the return address and berate him for sending cash by mail.
    c. Keep both the money and the card; you can reuse the card for your nephew's birthday by employing a little white-out.
    d. Reseal the envelope and put it in the mailbox.

5. A personal acquaintance leaves you a voicemail, requesting a return call. A timely manner for that reply would be:
    a. Never; this is America, so you are not obligated to anyone for anything.
    b. Ten years; maybe he'll forget about it in the meantime.
    c. Two months; you never really liked him much anyway.
    d. 24 to 48 hours.

6. A casual acquaintance gives you a birthday present. You should:
    a. Tell him he's a jerk and that you hope he gets cancer and dies; it makes you look bad that he remembered your birthday but you were oblivious to his.
    b. Open the present, and if you like it, keep it; otherwise, you throw it in the trash.
    c. Immediately throw it in the trash, unopened.
    d. Thank him for the present, reminding him that it really isn't necessary in the future, as your relationship isn't close enough to warrant gift exchanges.

7. A business acquaintance leaves you a voicemail, requesting a return call. A timely manner for that reply would be:
    a. Never; this is America, so you are not obligated to anyone for anything.
    b. A year; maybe he'll forget about it in the meantime.
    c. A month; if it's really important he can call again.
    d. 24 hours.

8. You agreed to go on a date with a man, but are now having second thoughts. You should:
    a. Stand him up; he'll get over it.
    b. Wait until an hour before the date, and then call to cancel with the most elaborate excuse you can dream up.
    c. Show up half an hour late so he'll realize you're not interested in him anymore.
    d. Honor your commitment and go on the date.

9. You feel rather inadequate because a coworker is so honest, courteous, and attentive to detail. You should:
    a. Fabricate a sexual harassment charge to try to get him fired.
    b. Plant drugs in his office to try to get him fired.
    c. Convince your office girlfriends to ostracize him (no acknowledgements in the elevator, no interaction unless an absolute necessity due to business activity, etc).
    d. Try to learn from his example to become a better person.

10. You are considering breaking up with the man you are dating. You and he meet to discuss your difficulties, and he suggests that you keep seeing each other on a limited basis (lunch every other week) to try to work through things. He asks you if that seems reasonable, and you say "yes". You should:
    a. Never see him again; when you said the suggestion sounded reasonable, you were not assenting to anything, just making a generic (theoretical) observation.
    b. Never see him again; he knows that you really meant "no" when you said "yes".
    c. Cancel an hour before your next scheduled lunch with the most elaborate excuse you can dream up (preferably involving some medical emergency).
    d. Keep your word and meet him in two weeks for lunch.

11. You are away at college (out-of-state) when your grandfather dies. Your parents conceal this fact from you for three months until the end of your term, so as not to distract you from your studies. This is:
    a. Completely honest behavior.
    b. Behavior worthy of a saint.
    c. Too far-fetched; nothing like that could ever happen in real life.
    d. An example of a lie of omission.

12. A man you have never seen before gets into the elevator with you and says "good morning" and smiles. You should:

a. Go ballistic and start screaming at him; he is obviously hitting on you and only sees you as a sexual object.
b. Challenge him to a duel to the death (flintlock pistols at dawn); that is the only way to preserve your honor.
c. Ask him a lot of personal questions to determine if he is a terrorist planning to bomb your building.
d. Smile and say "good morning" also.

13. Women are:
a. The greatest danger this nation has ever faced.
b. Inherently inferior to men at subjects like math and science.
c. Inherently slutty and, in fact, fundamentally evil.
d. More likely than men to perceive issues in shades of grey rather than black and white.

14. You have a romantic rival, with whom you are vying for the affections of a certain gentleman. You should:
a. Throw hydrochloric acid in her face so she will be permanently disfigured.
b. Make a withdrawal from your 401(k) account to hire a mafia hitman to rub her out (you have plenty of Italian friends).
c. Wait until she is standing at a street corner, and then push her out into traffic so that she gets run over by a city bus.
d. Rely on the good, sweet, and selfless nature of your personality to eventually convince the gentleman to decide in your favor.

15. You walk up to a bus stop, where you see a man you consider attractive. You should:
a. Put on a show for him; he expects you to flirt with him, and enjoys not knowing how far you'll go with it.
b. Make all sorts of promises to him; he expects you to say "yes" when you mean "no".
c. Bewitch him so that he can neither walk away nor run; in essence you want him "under the gun".
d. Treat him with the same courtesy and respect that you would accord a man you did not consider attractive.

16.   You and the man you are dating are in your apartment, watching a movie on TV. He asks you politely for a glass of water. You should:
a. Get your gold-plated snub-nose .32 out of a drawer and shoot him; that is the only way to free him from his unholy thirst.
b. Spit in his face; that is the only water you'll give him, and he'll have to content himself with it.
c. Tell him to get his own goddamn water; it's in the kitchen, just a few steps away.
d. Go into your kitchen and get him a glass of water; after all, it is the essence of life.

17. You are standing at the station platform, waiting for your train. A passenger who is waiting nearby you appears to have a heart attack and falls unconscious onto the track below. Although the tracks are not electrified, a train is approaching rapidly and will run over the prostrate figure within 90 seconds. You should:
a. Do nothing; you only have to be nice to someone if you actually know him, but otherwise it is perfectly acceptable to treat people like dirt.
b. Use your phone to take a video of the person being run over by the train, then text your best friend to tell her you helped reduce the surplus population today.
c. Only assist the person if you can ascertain that he is a True Christian (which may be difficult since he is unconscious and you only have 90 seconds or so).
d. Use that 90 seconds to get him off the track and out of immediate danger.

18. You are taking out some fruit that has spoiled to throw it in the dumpster. You see a blind beggar across the street, on the corner. You should:
a. Start throwing the rotten fruit at the man to encourage him to leave your neighborhood; you live in an exclusive community and won't put up with any riffraff.
b. Get some of your neighbors to help you lynch him; he obviously doesn't deserve to live.
c. Sneak up behind him and steal his collection tin; it seems like a very funny prank, and even if he has feelings, they certainly don't need to be taken into consideration.
d. Treat him with the same compassion and respect that he would accord you if your positions were reversed.

A Note on the Methodology

Some may question the validity of the entire premise that civility can be measured with these questions. Those who are especially concerned with epistemology may argue that it is impossible to objectively declare one of the answer choices ("A" through "D") to be correct, or at least more correct than the other choices; they may feel that any sort of conclusion regarding civility is entirely subjective, and therefore attempting to quantify it is futile.

This brings to mind an interesting anecdote regarding former Congressman Abner Mikva. The author of this paper once heard him tell an amusing story about his time in the House of Representatives, where he served alongside Gerald Ford (who, of course, was not yet Vice-President). Gerald Ford was leading a campaign to impeach Supreme Court Justice William Douglas, but it wasn't gaining much traction. Mikva teased Ford about the vagueness of the Constitution when it addresses impeachment. What exactly is an impeachable offense? If someone had enough parking tickets, would that satisfy the requirement of high crimes and misdemeanors? Ford, clearly annoyed, finally retorted that an impeachable offense was whatever a majority of the House of Representatives considered it to be. And that is the truth. That is the most basic definition of a crime, or its opposite, civility. One knows it if one sees it.

Civilized behavior is what a society says it is. Although etiquette books exist, along with advice columns and the like, it is not necessary to consult hoary scholars to determine if it is civilized or uncivilized behavior to, for example, trip a little old lady as she crosses the street. The correct answers to all of the test questions are equally obvious. The test is valid in representing civility because it passes the most important test itself: its solution is patent to civilized members of society. That may seem to be circular logic or contrary to the scientific method, but this is one situation that calls for "thinking outside the box". If a majority of respondents can identify that the correct answer is always "D", then that is truly the correct answer.

Each society defines civilized behavior for itself. If someone has become assimilated in a society through the process of acculturation (or even by studying that society sufficiently to become intimately familiar with it), then he or she will be able to instantly recognize civilized and uncivilized behavior. If that person is uncivilized according to the standards of that society, or is from a radically different society, then he or she will probably have a lot of difficulty in making the distinction between civilized and uncivilized behavior.

Predictions

The results are presented in the following section. It was predicted, however, prior to the start of the experiment, that age would be most closely correlated to success at the civility test. This is because significant behavioral differences exist between generations (first half gen-X vs. second half gen-X vs. gen-Y / Millennials), as is widely known. It was predicted that no correlation would be found between civility and other factors, such as height or race.

Results

The following pages illustrate the experiment results in various formats. First the raw data is presented, and then the sorted data is presented. The difference is that the first sorted data table groups respondents from the same race, so that an average grade A (percentage correct on the test) for that race may be calculated. The average percentage for each race R is plotted as a bar chart (R vs. A). Likewise, the second sorted data table codes respondents as either native Chicagoan (C = 1) or non-native (C = 0), so that an average grade O (percentage correct on the test) for that particular population's origin may be calculated. The average percentage for each group's origin is plotted as a bar chart (C vs. O). The final figures illustrate the correlation, or lack thereof, between the test percentage P (i.e., the grade) and each of the demographic factors. Standard linear regression techniques were used to find a line of best fit for the data scatter (age Y, height H, and weight W). These are plotted as P vs. Y, P vs. H, and P vs. W. It was decided to include all data points, even those of non-natives, in the linear regression calculations and graphs. This was because no significant native / non-native difference was seen in the C vs. O chart; therefore, all respondents may be considered as assimilated Chicagoans.

It should be noted that 60 of the 102 respondents achieved a perfect grade of 100%. Since this is a clear majority (58.8% of respondents), the test questions are vindicated as indicators of civilized behavior. Thus, a clear majority of individuals agree on, and thus define for their society, what constitutes civilized behavior.

Raw Data:

Note 1: w for white, b for black, a for asian, h for hispanic, m for middle eastern, n for native american, o for other

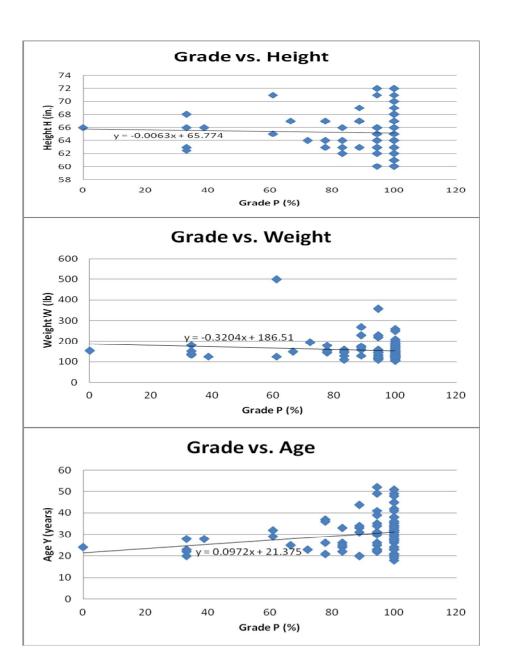| Response Number N	Score S (# correct)	Test Percentage (%) P = 100*S/18	Age Y (years)	Height H (in.)	Weight W (lb)	Race Code R (see note 1)	Average Race Code Test Percentage A (%)	Native Chicagoan Code C (0 = no, 1 = yes)	Average Origin Code Test Percentage O (%)	
1	17	94.44444444	35	64	115	w	-	0	-	0
2	18	100	21	64	145	w	-	0	-	1
3	18	100	31	68	138	w	-	1	-	1
4	18	100	23	64	127	h	-	1	-	1
5	17	94.44444444	49	62	115	w	-	1	-	0
6	7	38.88888889	28	66	125	w	-	1	-	0
7	18	100	23	63	160	o	-	1	-	1
8	18	100	32	66	160	w	-	1	-	1
9	18	100	36	64	260	o	-	0	-	1
10	17	94.44444444	26	63	118	a	-	0	-	0
11	18	100	45	62	180	w	-	1	-	1
12	18	100	24	70	200	w	-	1	-	1
13	17	94.44444444	41	66	148	w	-	1	-	0
14	17	94.44444444	25	66	220	w	-	0	-	0
15	17	94.44444444	30	66	220	b	-	1	-	0
16	18	100	32	65	148	b	-	0	-	1
17	16	88.88888889	20	69	270	w	-	0	-	0
18	18	100	30	68	145	w	-	1	-	1
19	18	100	30	60	115	w	-	1	-	1
20	17	94.44444444	52	60	135	w	-	0	-	0
21	18	100	29	64	140	w	-	1	-	1
22	18	100	26	67	140	b	-	1	-	1
23	6	33.33333333	23	68	153	b	-	1	-	0
24	18	100	38	71	145	w	-	1	-	1
25	18	100	27	61	115	a	-	1	-	1
26	11	61.11111111	29	65	125	o	-	1	-	0
27	6	33.33333333	20	63	135	a	-	0	-	0
28	18	100	38	71	174	w	-	1	-	1
29	18	100	20	61	125	w	-	0	-	1
30	17	94.44444444	39	64	145	w	-	1	-	0
31	18	100	36	68	200	w	-	0	-	1
32	6	33.33333333	22	62.5	183	w	-	1	-	0
33	6	33.33333333	28	66	140	b	-	0	-	0
34	12	66.66666667	25	67	150	w	-	1	-	0
35	18	100	32	61	130	a	-	0	-	1
36	13	72.22222222	23	64	195	b	-	1	-	0
37	18	100	30	60	115	a	-	0	-	1
38	18	100	32	70	190	w	-	0	-	1
39	18	100	42	61	105	w	-	1	-	1
40	18	100	41	68	155	w	-	0	-	1
41	18	100	45	64	150	w	-	1	-	1
42	14	77.77777778	26	67	145	h	-	1	-	0
43	17	94.44444444	22	66	230	b	-	1	-	0
44	11	61.11111111	32	71	500	w	-	1	-	0
45	16	88.88888889	33	67	230	o	-	1	-	0
46	18	100	27	64	130	b	-	1	-	1
47	18	100	31	66	120	w	-	0	-	1
48	14	77.77777778	37	67	155	o	-	0	-	0
49	14	77.77777778	21	64	180	b	-	1	-	0
50	17	94.44444444	22	63	135	w	-	1	-	0
51	18	100	33	67	160	w	-	1	-	1
52	15	83.33333333	33	62	130	a	-	0	-	0
53	18	100	28	62	105	w	-	0	-	1
54	18	100	21	63	190	w	-	0	-	1
55	15	83.33333333	24	62	110	w	-	0	-	0
56	18	100	28	65	145	w	-	0	-	1
57	17	94.44444444	31	72	358	b	-	1	-	0
58	18	100	33	64	125	w	-	0	-	1
59	14	77.77777778	36	63	155	w	-	0	-	0
60	18	100	49	72	250	w	-	0	-	1
61	18	100	30	64	175	w	-	1	-	1
62	18	100	31	65	135	w	-	0	-	1
63	18	100	34	64	133	w	-	1	-	1
64	15	83.33333333	26	66	160	o	-	0	-	0
65	18	100	28	67	125	w	-	1	-	1
66	16	88.88888889	31	63	170	a	-	1	-	0
67	16	88.88888889	20	67	160	h	-	1	-	0
68	18	100	24	66	140	w	-	1	-	1
69	18	100	23	62	118	b	-	1	-	1
70	18	100	21	69	130	b	-	1	-	1
71	18	100	32	69	135	b	-	1	-	1
72	18	100	48	65	128	w	-	1	-	1
73	15	83.33333333	22	64	145	w	-	0	-	0
74	17	94.44444444	31	71	160	w	-	0	-	0
75	18	100	20	64	130	b	-	0	-	1
76	18	100	32	65	150	w	-	1	-	1
77	18	100	32	66	210	b	-	1	-	1
78	18	100	29	62	125	w	-	1	-	1
79	17	94.44444444	23	65	110	a	-	1	-	0
80	17	94.44444444	23	65	125	w	-	0	-	0
81	18	100	32	67	192	h	-	1	-	1
82	18	100	18	60	130	h	-	0	-	1
83	18	100	28	64	150	w	-	0	-	1
84	17	94.44444444	23	63	145	b	-	1	-	0
85	17	94.44444444	31	62	123	w	-	0	-	0
86	18	100	51	64	120	w	-	1	-	1
87	16	88.88888889	34	67	175	w	-	1	-	0
88	16	88.88888889	44	67	130	o	-	0	-	0
89	0	0	24	66	155	w	-	0	-	0
90	18	100	35	64	130	a	-	0	-	1
91	18	100	27	62	108	w	-	1	-	1
92	17	94.44444444	34	65	147	b	-	0	-	0
93	18	100	34	64	165	a	-	1	-	1
94	18	100	35	64	150	h	-	1	-	1
95	18	100	28	70	180	w	-	1	-	1
96	18	100	23	65	123	w	-	1	-	1
97	18	100	30	68	165	w	-	1	-	1
98	18	100	36	64	185	w	-	0	-	1
99	18	100	34	68	130	w	-	0	-	1
100	18	100	19	63	170	w	-	0	-	1
101	18	100	34	72	150	b	-	0	-	1
102	15	83.33333333	25	63	150	o	-	1	-	0
103										0
104										0
105										0
		91.17647059								60
		average								

Sorted Data for Race:

Note 1: w for white, b for black, a for asian, h for hispanic, m for middle eastern, n for native american, o for other
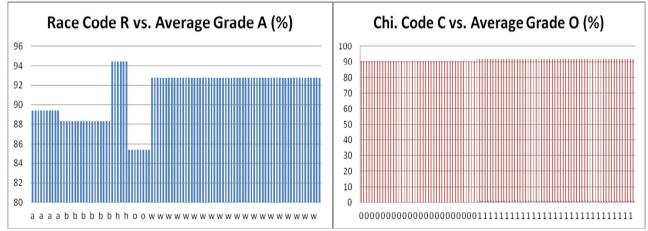
Response Number N	Score S (# correct)	Test Percentage (%) P = 100*S/18	Age Y (years)	Height H (in.)	Weight W (lb)	Race Code R (see note 1)	Average Race Code Test Percentage A (%)	Native Chicagoan Code C (0 = no, 1 = yes)	Average Origin Code Test Percentage O (%)
10	17	94.44444444	26	63	118	a	89.44444444	0	-
25	18	100	27	61	115	a	89.44444444	1	-
27	6	33.33333333	20	63	135	a	89.44444444	0	-
35	18	100	32	61	130	a	89.44444444	0	-
37	18	100	30	60	115	a	89.44444444	0	-
52	15	83.33333333	33	62	130	a	89.44444444	0	-
66	16	88.88888889	31	63	170	a	89.44444444	1	-
79	17	94.44444444	23	65	110	a	89.44444444	1	-
90	18	100	35	64	130	a	89.44444444	0	-
93	18	100	34	64	165	a	89.44444444	1	-
15	17	94.44444444	30	66	220	b	88.27160494	1	-
16	18	100	32	65	148	b	88.27160494	0	-
22	18	100	26	67	140	b	88.27160494	1	-
23	6	33.33333333	23	68	153	b	88.27160494	1	-
33	6	33.33333333	28	66	140	b	88.27160494	0	-
36	13	72.22222222	23	64	195	b	88.27160494	1	-
43	17	94.44444444	22	66	230	b	88.27160494	1	-
46	18	100	27	64	130	b	88.27160494	1	-
49	14	77.77777778	21	64	180	b	88.27160494	1	-
57	17	94.44444444	31	72	358	b	88.27160494	1	-
69	18	100	23	62	118	b	88.27160494	1	-
70	18	100	21	69	130	b	88.27160494	1	-
71	18	100	32	69	135	b	88.27160494	1	-
75	18	100	20	64	130	b	88.27160494	0	-
77	18	100	32	66	210	b	88.27160494	1	-
84	17	94.44444444	23	63	145	b	88.27160494	1	-
92	17	94.44444444	34	65	147	b	88.27160494	0	-
101	18	100	34	72	150	b	88.27160494	0	-
4	18	100	23	64	127	h	94.44444444	1	-
42	14	77.77777778	26	67	145	h	94.44444444	1	-
67	16	88.88888889	20	67	160	h	94.44444444	1	-
81	18	100	32	67	192	h	94.44444444	1	-
82	18	100	18	60	130	h	94.44444444	0	-
94	18	100	35	64	150	h	94.44444444	1	-
7	18	100	23	63	160	o	85.41666667	1	-
9	18	100	36	64	260	o	85.41666667	0	-
26	11	61.11111111	29	65	125	o	85.41666667	1	-
45	16	88.88888889	33	67	230	o	85.41666667	1	-
48	14	77.77777778	37	67	155	o	85.41666667	0	-
64	15	83.33333333	26	66	160	o	85.41666667	0	-
88	16	88.88888889	44	67	130	o	85.41666667	0	-
102	15	83.33333333	25	63	150	o	85.41666667	1	-
1	17	94.44444444	35	64	115	w	92.77777778	0	-
2	18	100	21	64	145	w	92.77777778	0	-
3	18	100	31	68	138	w	92.77777778	1	-
5	17	94.44444444	49	62	115	w	92.77777778	1	-
6	7	38.88888889	28	66	125	w	92.77777778	1	-
8	18	100	32	66	160	w	92.77777778	1	-
11	18	100	45	62	180	w	92.77777778	1	-
12	18	100	24	70	200	w	92.77777778	1	-
13	17	94.44444444	41	66	148	w	92.77777778	1	-
14	17	94.44444444	25	66	220	w	92.77777778	0	-
17	16	88.88888889	20	69	270	w	92.77777778	0	-
18	18	100	30	68	145	w	92.77777778	1	-
19	18	100	30	60	115	w	92.77777778	1	-
20	17	94.44444444	52	60	135	w	92.77777778	0	-
21	18	100	29	64	140	w	92.77777778	1	-
24	18	100	38	71	145	w	92.77777778	1	-
28	18	100	38	71	174	w	92.77777778	1	-
29	18	100	20	61	125	w	92.77777778	0	-
30	17	94.44444444	39	64	145	w	92.77777778	1	-
31	18	100	36	68	200	w	92.77777778	0	-
32	6	33.33333333	22	62.5	183	w	92.77777778	1	-
34	12	66.66666667	25	67	150	w	92.77777778	1	-
38	18	100	32	70	190	w	92.77777778	0	-
39	18	100	42	61	105	w	92.77777778	1	-
40	18	100	41	68	155	w	92.77777778	0	-
41	18	100	45	64	150	w	92.77777778	1	-
44	11	61.11111111	32	71	500	w	92.77777778	1	-
47	18	100	31	66	120	w	92.77777778	0	-
50	17	94.44444444	22	63	135	w	92.77777778	1	-
51	18	100	33	67	160	w	92.77777778	1	-
53	18	100	28	62	105	w	92.77777778	0	-
54	18	100	21	63	190	w	92.77777778	0	-
55	15	83.33333333	24	62	110	w	92.77777778	0	-
56	18	100	28	65	145	w	92.77777778	0	-
58	18	100	33	64	125	w	92.77777778	0	-
59	14	77.77777778	36	63	155	w	92.77777778	0	-
60	18	100	49	72	250	w	92.77777778	0	-
61	18	100	30	64	175	w	92.77777778	1	-
62	18	100	31	65	135	w	92.77777778	0	-
63	18	100	34	64	133	w	92.77777778	1	-
65	18	100	28	67	125	w	92.77777778	1	-
68	18	100	24	66	140	w	92.77777778	1	-
72	18	100	48	65	128	w	92.77777778	1	-
73	15	83.33333333	22	64	145	w	92.77777778	0	-
74	17	94.44444444	31	71	160	w	92.77777778	0	-
76	18	100	32	65	150	w	92.77777778	1	-
78	18	100	29	62	125	w	92.77777778	1	-
80	17	94.44444444	23	65	125	w	92.77777778	0	-
83	18	100	28	64	150	w	92.77777778	0	-
85	17	94.44444444	31	62	123	w	92.77777778	0	-
86	18	100	51	64	120	w	92.77777778	1	-
87	16	88.88888889	34	67	175	w	92.77777778	1	-
89	0	0	24	66	155	w	92.77777778	0	-
91	18	100	27	62	108	w	92.77777778	1	-
95	18	100	28	70	180	w	92.77777778	1	-
96	18	100	23	65	123	w	92.77777778	1	-
97	18	100	30	68	165	w	92.77777778	1	-
98	18	100	36	64	185	w	92.77777778	0	-
99	18	100	34	68	130	w	92.77777778	0	-
100	18	100	19	63	170	w	92.77777778	0	-
103									
104									
105									

Sorted Data for Origin:

Note 1: w for white, b for black, a for asian, h for hispanic, m for middle eastern, n for native american, o for other

Response Number N	Score S (# correct)	Test Percentage (%) P = 100*S/18	Age Y (years)	Height H (in.)	Weight W (lb)	Race Code R (see note 1)	Average Race Code Test Percentage A (%)	Native Chicagoan Code C (0 = no, 1 = yes)	Average Origin Code Test Percentage O (%)
1	17	94.44444444	35	64	115	w	-	0	90.43927649
2	18	100	21	64	145	w	-	0	90.43927649
9	18	100	36	64	260	o	-	0	90.43927649
10	17	94.44444444	26	63	118	a	-	0	90.43927649
14	17	94.44444444	25	66	220	w	-	0	90.43927649
16	18	100	32	65	148	b	-	0	90.43927649
17	16	88.88888889	20	69	270	w	-	0	90.43927649
20	17	94.44444444	52	60	135	w	-	0	90.43927649
27	6	33.33333333	20	63	135	a	-	0	90.43927649
29	18	100	20	61	125	w	-	0	90.43927649
31	18	100	36	68	200	w	-	0	90.43927649
33	6	33.33333333	28	66	140	b	-	0	90.43927649
35	18	100	32	61	130	a	-	0	90.43927649
37	18	100	30	60	115	a	-	0	90.43927649
38	18	100	32	70	190	w	-	0	90.43927649
40	18	100	41	68	155	w	-	0	90.43927649
47	18	100	31	66	120	w	-	0	90.43927649
48	14	77.77777778	37	67	155	o	-	0	90.43927649
52	15	83.33333333	33	62	130	a	-	0	90.43927649
53	18	100	28	62	105	w	-	0	90.43927649
54	18	100	21	63	190	w	-	0	90.43927649
55	15	83.33333333	24	62	110	w	-	0	90.43927649
56	18	100	28	65	145	w	-	0	90.43927649
58	18	100	33	64	125	w	-	0	90.43927649
59	14	77.77777778	36	63	155	w	-	0	90.43927649
60	18	100	49	72	250	w	-	0	90.43927649
62	18	100	31	65	135	w	-	0	90.43927649
64	15	83.33333333	26	66	160	o	-	0	90.43927649
73	15	83.33333333	22	64	145	w	-	0	90.43927649
74	17	94.44444444	31	71	160	w	-	0	90.43927649
75	18	100	20	64	130	b	-	0	90.43927649
80	17	94.44444444	23	65	125	w	-	0	90.43927649
82	18	100	18	60	130	h	-	0	90.43927649
83	18	100	28	64	150	w	-	0	90.43927649
85	17	94.44444444	31	62	123	w	-	0	90.43927649
88	16	88.88888889	44	67	130	o	-	0	90.43927649
89	0	0	24	66	155	w	-	0	90.43927649
90	18	100	35	64	130	a	-	0	90.43927649
92	17	94.44444444	34	65	147	b	-	0	90.43927649
98	18	100	36	64	185	w	-	0	90.43927649
99	18	100	34	68	130	w	-	0	90.43927649
100	18	100	19	63	170	w	-	0	90.43927649
101	18	100	34	72	150	b	-	0	90.43927649
3	18	100	31	68	138	w	-	1	91.71374765
4	18	100	23	64	127	h	-	1	91.71374765
5	17	94.44444444	49	62	115	w	-	1	91.71374765
6	7	38.88888889	28	66	125	w	-	1	91.71374765
7	18	100	23	63	160	o	-	1	91.71374765
8	18	100	32	66	160	w	-	1	91.71374765
11	18	100	45	62	180	w	-	1	91.71374765
12	18	100	24	70	200	w	-	1	91.71374765
13	17	94.44444444	41	66	148	w	-	1	91.71374765
15	17	94.44444444	30	66	220	b	-	1	91.71374765
18	18	100	30	68	145	w	-	1	91.71374765
19	18	100	30	60	115	w	-	1	91.71374765
21	18	100	29	64	140	w	-	1	91.71374765
22	18	100	26	67	140	b	-	1	91.71374765
23	6	33.33333333	23	68	153	b	-	1	91.71374765
24	18	100	38	71	145	w	-	1	91.71374765
25	18	100	27	61	115	a	-	1	91.71374765
26	11	61.11111111	29	65	125	o	-	1	91.71374765
28	18	100	38	71	174	w	-	1	91.71374765
30	17	94.44444444	39	64	145	w	-	1	91.71374765
32	6	33.33333333	22	62.5	183	w	-	1	91.71374765
34	12	66.66666667	25	67	150	w	-	1	91.71374765
36	13	72.22222222	23	64	195	b	-	1	91.71374765
39	18	100	42	61	105	w	-	1	91.71374765
41	18	100	45	64	150	w	-	1	91.71374765
42	14	77.77777778	26	67	145	h	-	1	91.71374765
43	17	94.44444444	22	66	230	b	-	1	91.71374765
44	11	61.11111111	32	71	500	w	-	1	91.71374765
45	16	88.88888889	33	67	230	o	-	1	91.71374765
46	18	100	27	64	130	b	-	1	91.71374765
49	14	77.77777778	21	64	180	b	-	1	91.71374765
50	17	94.44444444	22	63	135	w	-	1	91.71374765
51	18	100	33	67	160	w	-	1	91.71374765
57	17	94.44444444	31	72	358	b	-	1	91.71374765
61	18	100	30	64	175	w	-	1	91.71374765
63	18	100	34	64	133	w	-	1	91.71374765
65	18	100	28	67	125	w	-	1	91.71374765
66	16	88.88888889	31	63	170	a	-	1	91.71374765
67	16	88.88888889	20	67	160	h	-	1	91.71374765
68	18	100	24	66	140	w	-	1	91.71374765
69	18	100	23	62	118	b	-	1	91.71374765
70	18	100	21	69	130	b	-	1	91.71374765
71	18	100	32	69	135	b	-	1	91.71374765
72	18	100	48	65	128	w	-	1	91.71374765
76	18	100	32	65	150	w	-	1	91.71374765
77	18	100	32	66	210	b	-	1	91.71374765
78	18	100	29	62	125	w	-	1	91.71374765
79	17	94.44444444	23	65	110	a	-	1	91.71374765
81	18	100	32	67	192	h	-	1	91.71374765
84	17	94.44444444	23	63	145	b	-	1	91.71374765
86	18	100	51	64	120	w	-	1	91.71374765
87	16	88.88888889	34	67	175	w	-	1	91.71374765
91	18	100	27	62	108	w	-	1	91.71374765
93	18	100	34	64	165	a	-	1	91.71374765
94	18	100	35	64	150	h	-	1	91.71374765
95	18	100	28	70	180	w	-	1	91.71374765
96	18	100	23	65	123	w	-	1	91.71374765
97	18	100	30	68	165	w	-	1	91.71374765
102	15	83.33333333	25	63	150	o	-	1	91.71374765
103									
104									
105									

Graphs

Graphs

Conclusions

The average grade for all respondents was 91.2%. The average grade was 89.4% for Asians, 88.3% for blacks, 94.4% for Hispanics, 85.4% for other / mixed races, and 92.8% for whites. While Hispanics and whites seemed to score slightly better than Asians and blacks, the differences between the groups only amount to a few percentage points and don't seem to be statistically significant. Thus, civility does not seem closely correlated with racial group.

The average grade was 90.4% for non-natives of the Chicago land area and 91.7% for natives of the Chicagoland area. Thus, as previously mentioned, there is no significant difference due to origin; all respondents may be considered as assimilated Chicagoans.

The linear regression equation for the grade vs. height graph is nearly a horizontal line. Visually, there is also no clear trend in the data. Thus, as predicted, height does not correlate with civility.

The linear regression equation for the grade vs. weight graph is a relatively horizontal line, although it does slope slightly downward, indicating that lighter people achieve better civility scores on average. Visually, however, the trend seems to be in the other direction; discounting some outliers in the data, heavier people's scores appear clustered at the higher end of the spectrum. Put another way, a curve defining the upper limits of the data appears to loosely approach an asymptote corresponding to a perfect grade of 100%. This might be explainable by considering the impediments to social interaction that are presented by obesity. If one is a "jerk" (i.e., uncivilized) and obese as well, one will likely be shunned or at least avoided by other members of society except when absolutely necessary (e.g., unavoidable business transactions), and thus it will be quite difficult for one to get by in the world. In other words, thinner people have more flexibility in their behavior and can get away with less civilized behavior because they are more "attractive" to other members of society. In fact, even the data outliers can be explained by considering that extreme obesity might pose such an impediment that the individual would not care about or even attempt social interaction any longer, thus depressing the civility scores. But, since the linear regression is at odds with this analysis, it is perhaps best to conclude that there is no obvious correlation between weight and civility.

Finally, the linear regression equation for the grade vs. age graph is an upward sloping line, indicating that older people achieve better civility scores on average. This is also borne out by a visual examination of the graph; a curve defining the upper limits of the data appears to approach an asymptote corresponding to a perfect grade of 100%. This is much more pronounced here than the apparent curve in the grade vs. weight graph, which was actually at odds with the statistical regression line. Thus, with some confidence, it can be said that age does correlate with civility. This is not to say that younger people are all uncivilized, but rather that there is more variability in their behavior. For instance, the 20 to 30 year age bracket has grades ranging from 0% to 100%, but the 30 to 40 year age bracket has grades that are much more narrowly defined, from about 60% to 100%, and the 40+ year age bracket has only grades of about 90% and better. This supports the original prediction that age would correlate with civility. However, because of the data scatter, there is no way to conclude whether this is primarily a function of generational differences (different ages answer test questions differently according to their "bracket") rather than acquired life experiences / life skills (civility scores increase year by year as one ages).