**Rural Safety: An Examination of Noise-related Injuries**

***INTRODUCTION:***

You are an insurance actuary who evaluates the likelihood of accidents and quantifies the contingent outcomes in order to minimize loss, both direct and indirect. Not only do you have to account for economic variables, you also have to account for sometimes inconsistent, unpredictable human behavior.

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***TASK:***

Today, an insurance company approached you and your co-investigator(s) with a concern for the rise in noise-related injuries. The company asked that your team research this topic in an effort to understand more fully the scale of noise-related risks and those most at risk. Upon completing your research, you should be able to answer the following questions:

1. What is the nature of noise-related injuries?
2. Who is most at risk for these types of injuries?

***PROCESS:***

Part I:

Working in investigation teams, you will review the following websites to gain a deeper understanding of noise-related injuries. As you work through Resources A to I, document your investigation using the formatted “rural safety investigator’s notebook”—attached to this document. If you finish early, feel free to add to your research by finding additional resources on the Web—just make sure to document your source!

**Resource A:** “The Hearing Video”

<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/Multimedia/Videos.asp?reportid=34284>

**Resource B**: “Dangerous Decibels Virtual Exhibit”

<http://www.dangerousdecibels.org/virtualexhibit/index.html>

**Resource C**: “Children and Noise”

<http://www.audioconsult.com/kidnoise.html>

**Resource D**: “Farming with a Hearing Impairment”

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/ip/ip52/ip52.pdf>

**Resource E**: “Noise—Sound Without Value”

http://nasdonline.org/document/1669/d001550/noise-sound-without-value.html

**Resource F**: “K-State Student from Sylvan Grove Researches, Raises Awareness about Hearing Loss in Agricultural Workers”

<http://www.k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/mar09/jsorensen30509.html>

**Resource G**: “Are Personal Music Players Harming Our Hearing?”

<http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2006/01/29/1322974.htm>

**Resource H**: “Noise Dangers” Podcast

<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wuky/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=1490518&sectionID=1346>

**Resource I**: “Farm Noises and Hearing Loss”

http://www.agriculture.com/family/farm-safety/family-health/Poor-hearing-is-a-safety-risk-to-yourself-and-others\_332-ar4879

**Resource J:** Beat the Stigma of Hearing Loss

http://www.agriculture.com/family/farm-safety/beat-stigmas-of-hearing-loss\_328-ar10275

Part II:

Using the resources from Part I and any other initial research you have conducted, your team needs to create a brief “investigative report” (1-2 pages) directly addressing the following questions:

1. Why are these types of noise-related injuries a problem?
2. Who is most at risk for noise-related injuries?
3. What further question(s) do you have about noise-related injuries that is left unanswered by your research?

Please type your final report and cite sources using APA style.

***CONCLUSION***

Congratulations, you completed “Phase One.” Dr. Swan and Dr. Mazur are on their way to a national conference, the National Institutes of Farm Safety (NIFS), where she is giving a presentation on the rise in noise-related accidents in Kentucky. Utilizing your “investigators’ notebook” and your “investigative report,” you will need to create a podcast for the Professors to use as part of her presentation. The substance of your podcast will need to address the two questions that framed your research: 1) What is the nature of noise-related injuries and 2) Who is most at risk for noise-related injuries. A third question that needs to be included is “Why are Kentucky insurance agents worried about noise-related injuries?” Good news! You work for a large firm and will be assigned to collaborate with a panel of three to four other investigators to complete your podcast. Please feel free to embellish your podcasts with sound effects and creative dialogue.

***EVALUATION***

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| **Area of Evaluation** | **Possible Points** | **Student Score** |
| Content | Investigators’ Notebook | 20 |  |
| Investigative Report | 20 |  |
| Podcast \* | 30 |  |
| Process | Use of Class time, working with fellow investigators, use of feedback, etc. | 15 |  |
| Product | Use of medium, including spelling, grammar, use of sound, etc. | 15 |  |
| **Total Score** |  /100 |

\* Criteria for final podcast will be given separately