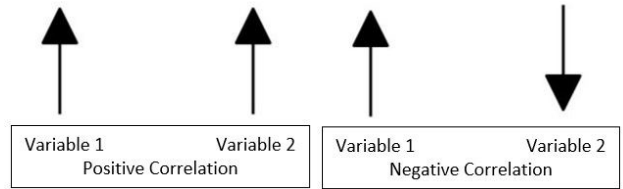


Research Methods: Correlations
Sociology Chapter 2

Name: _____

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Understanding Correlations: Correlational studies show relationships between variables. If high scores on one variable predict high scores on the other variable, the correlation is *positive*. If high scores on one variable predict low scores on the other variable, the correlation is *negative*.



Examples: Do the data sets have a positive, a negative or no (zero) correlation?

- The age and weight of a baby
 As a baby gets older his weight _____. Both sets of data _____, so the data has a _____ correlation.
- The amount of free time you have and the number of sports that you play
 Your free time _____ as the number of sports you play _____; therefore, the data has a _____ correlation.
- The price of a shirt and the color of its buttons
 The price is not affected by the color of its buttons so the data has _____ correlation.

Problems: For each of the correlation studies described below, decide whether the correlation is positive or negative.

	Positive	Negative
1. A study of married couples showed that the longer they had been married, the more similar their opinions on social and political issues were.		
2. An intelligence test was given to all the children in an orphanage. The results showed that the longer the children had lived in the orphanage, the lower their IQ scores.		
3. A college professor found that the more class absences students have, the lower their grade in the course tends to be.		
4. A politician running against a candidate who had been in office for eight years pointed out that violent crime had increased steadily during those eight years even though the administration appropriated more and more money to fight crime.		
5. It was found that elementary-school children who made high scores on a vocabulary test also tended to make high scores on a test of physical strength and muscular coordination.		
6. A government study reveals that the more a mother smokes, the more her children are likely to exhibit behavior problems.		
7. The more psychology courses students take during their college years, the higher scores they get on a measure of emotional intelligence.		
8. Researchers investigating the relationship between alcohol and memory found that higher doses of alcohol were associated with increasingly lower scores on a test of memory recall.		
9. When the popularity of high school girls was rated by their peers, it was noticed that those girls who were most popular tended to do the best on a measure of self-esteem.		
10. A survey of adolescents noted that those who watched the most TV during the week tended to receive the lowest ratings on a measure of general health.		
11. A survey reveals that college students who eat breakfast regularly have a higher GPA than those that do not eat breakfast regularly.		
12. Researchers find that as exposure to violent media decreases, aggressive behavior tends to decrease.		

Graphs: Using your knowledge of positive and negative correlations, identify whether the following graphs represent positive, negative, or no (zero) correlation.

