**Practice Analyzing
Survey and Correlational Research**

1.  A social psychologist interested in the effects of alcohol abuse conducted the following study. He mailed questionnaires to the homes of workers who had been laid off from a local automobile plant. The surveys were mailed at various time intervals and the workers were asked to fill them out anonymously and return them. Information about the amount of alcohol consumption before and after the layoff was obtained. Fifty percent of the surveys were completed and returned during the course of the research. The researcher found a very strong positive relationship between alcohol consumption and duration of unemployment. In his report the researcher stated that, "the conditions of unemployment produce a tendency for people to increase their intake of alcohol." If you were the editor in charge of deciding whether this work should be published, what would your judgment be? Explain.

2. A student researcher hypothesizes that people who listen to classical music are more intelligent than those who do not. To test this hypothesis, she questions 1000 participants about their music listening habits and obtains their SAT scores. In support of her hypothesis, she finds that these two variables are highly correlated. In general, the more classical music a student listened to, the higher his or her SAT score was.

The researcher then claims that “the data prove that listening to classical music increases a person’s intelligence.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Please explain.

3. Suppose a study examines the relationship between how often people exercise and how happy they are with their lives. Participants in this study were asked to report how many times a week they exercise for 30 minutes or more at a time and to complete a questionnaire with items that measure their quality of life (e.g., How many times in the past week do you remember feeling happy?). A positive relationship is found between number of times per week people exercise and their quality of life score.

a) What are the two measures of performance collected in this study? Be specific.

b) Describe the three different types of causal relationships that *could* exist between the measures described in part a).

c) Explain why this study does *not* provide evidence for any of the causal relationships mentioned above.