

Beginning the Writing Project...

[RUBRIC found here](#)

[EXCEL SHEET found here](#) (click FILE then DOWNLOAD then Microsoft Excel .xlxs. If you do not have Microsoft Excel on your computer, you MUST upload this file to <https://googleapps.msu.edu/> and use your MSU google sheets account)

Focus Questions: What is happiness, and how can one quantify it? In the processes of quantification and ranking, what is gained, and what is lost?

The task: Using five metrics of your choice from [Gapminder](#) or [CIA World Factbook](#) (do not use the same 5 as listed in the above examples!!), you will individually rank the 16 countries below from most to least happy. You should make sure that your ranking

1. has a weighting scheme such that not all metrics are weighted equally;
2. accounts for the absolute/relative variable distinction appropriately; and
3. accounts for the size differences in the variables chosen.

If there are metrics that are not on Gapminder that you are interested in, you are welcome to search for alternative resources for that metric.

There is a spreadsheet on mth101.com that already has the countries. You will notice

- that there are two columns for each metric you will use; this is room for you to--if needed--convert an absolute measure to a relative one; and that
- there is a built-in weighting formula so that all you need to do is fill in weights, the data itself, and change signs from addition to subtraction as needed in the final scoring formula.

Countries

- *Asia:* China, Bangladesh, South Korea, India, Singapore, and Russia
- *North America:* The United States and Mexico
- *South America:* Ecuador, Argentina, and Colombia
- *Africa:* South Africa, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Nigeria
- *Europe:* Finland and Ukraine

Helpful hints:

- You will need to ensure that you save your work using Google Sheets or Microsoft Excel.
- If you cannot find the metric data for a country in a given year on Gapminder, you might do a Google search for an alternate data source. If that does not work, consider using a different year that Gapminder does have data for for that country (e.g., using the year 2014 instead of 2016).

Looking ahead:

Note that we will continue this work for our lab on **Oct 10** by giving peer feedback on writing project drafts.

Next Steps

- Bring two paper copies of draft of your “press release” for Lab 6 on Thursday, October 10 for peer revisions. If you do not have a paper, you will receive a 0 for that lab.
- Upload your completed excel sheet with metrics, weights, and happiness scores for the 16 countries to D2L by 10 pm Monday, October 14.
- Final version of writing project is due via D2L upload Monday, November 4 by 10 pm.

NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Press release assignment: prepare a 500-700 word, news article, that conveys

- the ranking itself (that is, the sixteen countries from most to least happy)
- how the “experts” made it (i.e., your methodology),
- limitations in your analysis, and
- what patterns the public should note as they read through the results.

It is imperative to keep in mind that the general public may not understand all of the mathematics you have done here, so use simple terms that you believe one might find in a news article. If there are limitations of your analysis in capturing happiness, it is important that you convey them.