Assessment of Student Learning for QR Module:  *A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, a Native of Africa: But resident above sixty years in the United States of America*  in conversation with the Voyages Trans-Atlantic  Slave Trade Database

Learning Goal:

**Students will locate data according to different variables using an interactive database.**

Assessment:

Students will complete pre- and post-assessments based on the Wall Street Journal’s interactive database on Murder in America that ask students to locate data according to different variables. (See below.)

Learning Goal:

**Students will construct tables and graphs using this data and explain their choice of table and/or graph to best visually describe their data.**

Assessment:

 Students will conduct pre-and post-assessments using the Wall Street Journal’s Interactive database on Murder in America, which will ask students to construct graphs and to explain their choices. (See below.)

Learning goal:

Students will appreciate the importance of historical data for contextual understanding of African American Literature.

Assessment:

Students will answer the following question in their brainstorming exercise before beginning the Venture Smith Project: “Do you think that studying data about the transatlantic slave trade will help you to better understand Venture Smith’s Narrative? Explain why or why not using specific detail.”

Students will answer the following questions as part of their reflection essay after completing the project: “Has studying data about the transatlantic slave trade helped you to better understand Venture Smith’s Narrative? Explain your answer in detail.”

PRE-ASSESSMENT:

This assignment is meant to assess your ability to work with interactive database and to interpret the data you generate before undertaking the Venture Smith Project. You will not be graded based on your performance, but you will receive ten points for completing this short assignment.

To complete this assignment, you are asked to visit The Wall Street Journal’s interactive database on Murder in America, which is found at <http://projects.wsj.com/murderdata/?mg=inert-wsj#view=all>

BE SURE TO WATCH THE SHORT VIDEO EXPLAINING HOW TO USE THE MURDER IN AMERICA DATABASE.

Answer the following questions:

Between 2000 and 2010 how many Americans were killed in brawls due to the influence of alcohol?

What race had the greatest number of victims in brawls due to the influence of alcohol?

Please look at the pie-chart showing the race of the victims, which will appear on your right. Using the information in the pie chart, make a bar graph showing the number of victims on one axis and the race of the victims on another. (If you are not able to do this, please say so.) Which is better—the pie chart or the bar graph—in helping you to visualize this information?

Do you think the creators of this interactive database have left out any important information that would help you better understand these numbers? Explain.

POST-ASSESSMENT

This assignment is meant to assess your ability to work with interactive databases and to interpret the data you generate AFTER undertaking the Venture Smith Project. You will not be graded based on your performance, but you will receive ten points for completing this short assignment.

To complete this assignment, you are asked to visit The Wall Street Journal’s interactive database on Murder in America, which is found at <http://projects.wsj.com/murderdata/?mg=inert-wsj#view=all>

Answer the following questions:

Between 2000 and 2010, how many Americans were murdered in juvenile gang killings?

What race had the greatest number of victims in juvenile gang killings?

Please look at the bar graph at the bottom of the page that shows the number of juvenile gang killings between 2000 and 2010. Construct an xy graph with number of victims on one axis and the year on the other. Make a line graph showing the changes over the eleven years studied. Is this more helpful in visualizing this information? Why or why not?

Do you think the creators of this interactive database have left out any important information that would help you better understand these numbers? Explain.