

HOMEWORK #1 (9.8.10), Due Wed., 9.15.10 at 9:25 pm

In class today I handed out a two-sided sheet with some random DATA concerning the economy of the USA in 1900. Your assignment is to take one of the checked DATA ITEMS and find out what is its value in 2000. In completing this assignment please adhere to the following required guidelines. The DATA sheet is also given below.

1. The modern data point (s) must be for the year 2000.
2. Please use a public and verifiable (by me) source which you will footnote. It is OK to locate a source on a website.
3. Please print you answer on a single sheet of paper listing the 2000 FACT(S) and your source(s). A website link is OK. Just make double sure I will be able to get to the link easily. The underlying source should be a government statistical document or something published by a highly reputable organization or scholar. Please give a full bibliographical citation for your source.
4. A first rate source of current and historical data is the STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE UNITED STATES, published every year by the Bureau of the Census. The website is <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>
5. The assignment is due in class on Wednesday, September 15, at 9:25am.

If you missed class today, consult the list of FACTS which is attached and select a FACT which is checked on the left and does not have a name associated with it on the right. Email me your selection (michael.edelstein@qc.cuny.edu).

Subject: In The Year 1900

In the Year 1900

- ✓ The average life expectancy in the United States was forty-seven. *Kasia*
- ✓ Only 14 percent of the homes in the United States had a bathtub. *Steve*
- ✓ Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone. A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars. *Ernest*

- ✓ There were only 8,000 cars in the US and only 144 miles of paved roads. The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph. *Ian*

- Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the twenty-first most populous state in the Union.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

- ✓ The average wage in the US was twenty-two cents an hour. The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year. *Bill*

- A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5000 per year. *Michael*

- ✓ More than 95 percent of all births in the United States took place at home.

- ✓ Ninety percent of all US physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."

- ✓ Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound. *Jean*

- ✓ Most women only washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason, either as travelers or immigrants.

The five leading causes of death in the US were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

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