Structured Writing Assignment Prompt

Provide a *simple* explanation of hypothesis testing. Your explanation needs to be so simple that a fifth grader can understand it. Make sure your explanation does not include any statistical jargon. Your explanation must be age-appropriate and not use any words that would be beyond the abilities of a fifth grader.

Use the following template that (you will fill in the blank sections) researchers have found successful in explaining complex concepts to children.

Your submission should consist of four items (follow the prompts):

- Definition: What is a hypothesis test? Explain in one short sentence.
- Long example/Personal experience: How would a fifth grader relate to a hypothesis test? What experiences in their life can be related to this concept?
- Compare/Contrast: Is there anything that a hypothesis test can easily be confused with? What is it NOT? Remember that your fifth grader still needs to be able to relate to these examples.
- Short example(s)/Application: Are there any other areas that could make hypothesis tests a useful concept for fifth graders? You can also push their limits and provide examples of how people in different professions use this concept.

How your writing will be evaluated (your submission should consist of 250-500 words total):

- 30 points: each section of the template is filled, explanation and information are sufficient for a fifth grader, there is no jargon.
- 20 points: each section of the template is filled, but information is insufficient, there is no jargon
- 10 point: all sections of the template are filled, but information is insufficient, there is some jargon
- 0 points: some sections of the template are unfilled, there is much jargon

Alternative Writing Assignment Prompt (Fall 2017)

Pick a news item and describe how the use of hypothesis testing could have improved the coverage of the news item. Include the hypothesis statements in your essay, describe the hypothesis statements, and justify your decision. Include the complete reference for your news items in your submission.

How your writing will be evaluated (your submission should consist of 250-500 words total):

- 30 points: Well explained how news item can be improved using hypothesis testing
- 20 points: Good explanation of how news item relates to the hypothesis testing but some use of statistical terminology is incomplete
- 10 point: explanation is incomplete and some statistical terminology is used incorrectly
- 0 points: poor explanation, wrong use of statistical terminology