

## Typical Problems with Hypotheses, by Oliver Garretson

(1) The hypothesis is a piece of common knowledge or, as in the case of the first example, is not wholly sociological; this relates to human's sexual dimorphism (biology). Could also be a problem if we didn't measure it: then we can't easily test it.

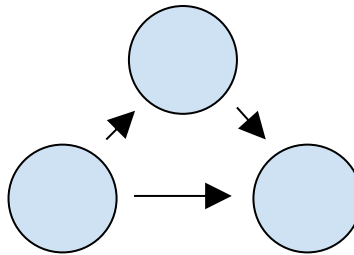
"Women are more likely to respond 'yes' to being afraid to walk alone at night in their neighborhood because women are smaller / weaker."

"Black respondents are more likely to respond 'yes' to lack of confidence in police because of police brutality / the media's portrayal of police brutality / racial tensions."

"Most respondents are Republican because Louisiana is a red state."

(2) In general, lacking 'because' statements:

"Religious respondents tends to report trusting people more."



(3) 'Because' statements that are long or don't directly state a variable, or circular statement:

"Respondents report that the younger generation uses the internet to communicate with people more often than the older generation because that is how people feel about what young people do nowadays."

What we DO want are simple declarative sentences, like:

"Men are more Republican because they are more conservative."

Variables: Gender (IV), Party Preference (DV), Ideology (Control)

