

# Anonymity Bias

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# Do You Smoke Weed?

- In our survey, we asked a total of 60 Academy juniors and seniors the question, “Do you smoke weed?”
- We tested the bias of anonymity in our survey by having 30 people write their name before answering the question and have the other 30 just answer the question without writing their name.

\*\*\*Please write your name before answering the following question\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Do you smoke weed?

Yes

No

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\*\*\*Your response is completely anonymous\*\*

Do you smoke weed?

Yes

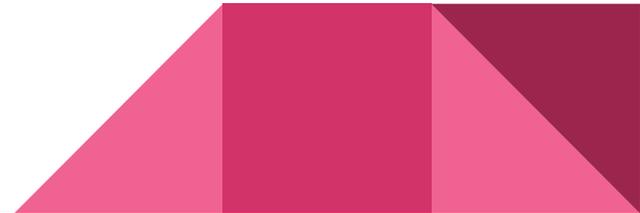
No

# Hypothesis

- We hypothesized that the results of the survey would show that by being anonymous, more people would answer “yes” to the question and those who had to write their name would all answer “no”.
  - We made this assumption based on the fact that marijuana is illegal which would most likely cause anyone who had to write their name to say “no”. We also think that by being anonymous, more people would be open to answering truthfully on the survey because it can not be traced back to them.
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# Random Sampling

- We selected the subjects for the survey by first getting a list of all the juniors and seniors.
- We then assigned a number to each person and used the calculator to generate 30 random numbers which would be assigned to take the anonymous survey
- We then generated 30 more numbers of subjects that would be assigned to take the non-anonymous survey.



# Subjects

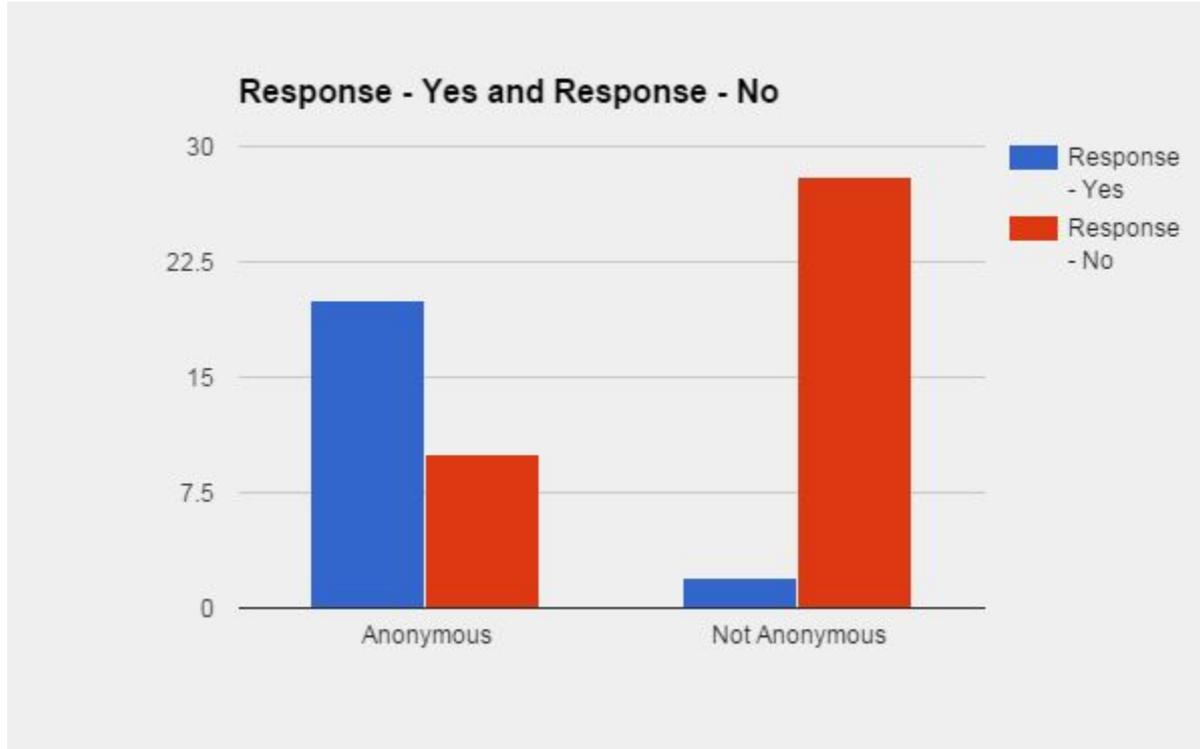
- Before conducting the survey we researched the age at which teens are most likely to start smoking and found that it was at age 16.
  - Since we are trying to find if anonymity changes the response of the subjects rather than if people are actually smoking weed, we surveyed a sample of juniors and seniors because they were more likely to actually smoke weed.
  - This reduced the chance for the bias that none of the subjects actually smoked weed which would have caused our results to show that everyone said “no” because very little to no people would lie and say they smoke weed.
  - People would lie, however, and say that they do not smoke if the survey is not anonymous and that is what we are analyzing.
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# Chart

	Response - Yes	Response - No
Anonymous	20	10
Not Anonymous	2	28



# Graph



# Conclusion

- Our hypothesis was correct as the numbers concluded.
- The bias factor of anonymity greatly affects how people respond in a survey, especially when it comes to a personal question.
- Our survey showed that when not anonymous, only 7% of the subjects answered yes to the question but when anonymous, 67% of the subjects answered yes to the question.



# Problems Encountered

- One small problem we had was trying to eliminate all other biases so that we could isolate the bias we were testing.
- This problem was greatly diminished when we decided to only survey juniors and seniors because we eliminated the big bias that would have resulted from the fact that very few to no lower classmen smoke weed.
  - This would have caused our “no” response to be much higher resulting in us not being able to see as well that anonymity affects response.

