

Answer all the questions completely. There is not a strict word limit. Simply answer the questions completely and you'll do fine. :)

- Historical baby names trends Assignment (worth 7.5 points)
- Due by October 10 at 11:59 pm.
- If this is the first of the two **Midterm Assignments** you turn in, submit it into the “Assignment 1” dropbox. If it’s the second, submit it into the “Assignment 2” dropbox.
- Name your document “Baby Names Assignment”.

Instructions for students:

Part 1:

The U.S. Social Security Administration provides data about the popularity of baby names from the 1880s to the present. <https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/babynames/decades/index.html>

Look up the most popular names for 4 separate decades.

- Did any names remain in the top 10 (for either boys or girls) during all 4 decades you chose?
- Did anything stand out to you as you looked at the data?

Now go to the link showing the top 5 most popular names for boys and girls from **1921-2020** <https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/babynames/decades/century.html>

- Do any patterns stand out to you?
- Do you have any theories about why some names might have been popular during certain time periods?

Part 2:

- Why, in your opinion, do girls’ names rise and fall in popularity more quickly today than in the past?
- Boys’ names seem to follow a slow falling-off pattern; the name that was #1 for a while will then become #2, then #3, etc. Girls’ names are less predictable; often a name is most popular for a few years, but then completely disappears from the top 5. What might explain this gender difference in names?
- Look at the names popular between 1921 and about 1950. Do you know any babies or children with any of those names? If yes, is it one of the boys’ names or one of the girls’ names? Why might we see that pattern? Do any of the popular names in this period seem old-fashioned now?

