

**Proposal #1:**

**A. interest seems fine** 20/20

**B. Research questions good start** 15/20

Not clear how you will assess, e.g., accuracy of information, likelihood of success, from survey of students

**C. references look useful [nothing from kayco?]** 8/10

"I will require that Zhijun include her SURG proposal, and a detailed summary of her work to date, with your proposals for this class."  
-10

**Proposal #2:**

**A. interest good** 20/20

**B. Research questions may not get at the most interesting thing** 10/20

The kinds of summary information you are asking for are probably already compiled in annual reports of the CMU police. Look for them (contact someone in campus police).

Are there enough crime reports to bother with surveying a random sample of them, or are there so few you might as well do a census?

If campus police already compiles this data, what would be the point of you doing it?

Revise research questions to take into account what you can get from campus police, ask other questions that would add to that. possibly consider different target population, depending on the new research questions you ask.

**C. references look fine** 10/10

**TOTAL** 73/100

### **Proposal I – Exploring the Difficulty, Preference, and Improvement in Off-Campus Housing Search for CMU Students**

A. Why is this topic interesting? Why does this survey need to be done now? Is there a client for whom you might do the survey?

Finding an off-campus housing, a residence with less certainty and safety compared to common homes and school dormitories, is essentially the first independent search for the majority of college students. It is not hard to associate this searching experience with difficulty and frustration. In particular, some Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) students found such experience below satisfactory. Armed merely with such tools as “Craigslist.org”, “Rent.com”, and “CMU Misc. Market”, CMU students can be jeopardized, especially by the lacking of efficiency, safety, and validity of information. This survey is intended to identify the existing difficulty and provide a strong basis for viable resolutions as soon as possible. Moreover, we are interested in the students’ preference in off-campus housing. The result of this survey will be of great interest to many, such as CMU Student Affairs, property managers, college students and college student parents.

B. What question(s) do you propose to study? Give a brief answer that would have been understandable by a non-statistician.

From a randomized sample of CMU students, we will be looking at the following questions:

1. What are the common platforms used in the search of off-campus housing? What is the level of accessibility, accuracy of information, likelihood of success, etc. of such platform?
2. What is your preference for an off-campus housing? [i.e. Do you prefer an apartment or a house? What is your acceptable distance from your residence to campus (5-minute-walk, 10 minutes by bus, etc.)?]
3. Do you think this searching experience can be improved, if so, in what ways?

C. What research has already been done on the topic or on the theoretical construct of central importance to your topic? What could be learned from survey results?

Emily: <http://www.ctpost.com/local/article/Students-don-t-often-consider-fire-safety-2755535.php> (Jan 29, 2012)

This article, “Students Don’t Often Consider Fire Safety”, from the Connecticut Post by Linda Conner Lambeck discusses important features that should be looked for by college students when looking for off-campus housing, including fire safety features. The article is important in helping to identify college student off-campus preferences and important housing features that should be considered.

Zhi: <http://www.bsudailynews.com/mobile/students-share-stories-advice-about-off-campus-housing-1.2684146>

“Students share stories, advice about off-campus housing” by Victoria Ison is an article supplemented with various interviews. It is helpful in identifying some prominent problems that exist in other student bodies. We can use information above as a guideline for our survey questions.

Terence:

<http://www.studentaffairs.duke.edu/communityhousing/resources/neighborhood-reports>

Duke University has conducted housing surveys in the past. The Duke Student Affairs website contains such past surveys, which we can use for reference for our survey.

Jessica:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/29/realestate/the-hunt-off-campus-with-elbow-room.html?pagewanted=1& r=1> (January 26, 2012)

“Off Campus, with Elbow Room,” by Joyce Cohen is an article detailing the personal experience of an NYU law student looking for off-campus housing. The article reveals some options a similar student may use, such as going through a broker to circumvent inaccurate online listings. We also see preferences that may be taken into account, such as personal (bedroom) space, social space, neighbors, and a community that appeals to people in our age range. This article is useful because it gives us a good idea of what the housing search process may be like for our target demographic

## **Proposal II – Carnegie Mellon University Crime Reports**

A. Why is this topic interesting? Why does this survey need to be done now? Is there a client for whom you might do the survey?

Recently, frequent crime alerts have brought great attention to the Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) campus, influencing many students to modify their behaviors to ensure safety. Students are taking actions such as going home at an earlier time or reconsidering their residences. Due to this huge impact, it is interesting and valuable to study the crime alerts of the past two years. By categorizing and analyzing criminal activities on and off CMU's campus, this study would provide valuable information for student safety concerns. Such information provides a basis for precautions and suggestions that would benefit the CMU campus security. This survey will benefit CMU Campus Police, Pittsburgh Police, and also CMU community members (students, faculty, and staff) in order to ensure better protection and safety.

B. What question(s) do you propose to study? Give a brief answer that would have been understandable by a non-statistician.

Through the use of CMU's campus police crime reports we will be answering the following questions:

1. What types of crimes are most prevalent? What degree of injury was sustained?
2. In which areas, at what times of day and week, and during which month, do crimes occur most frequently?
3. What percentage of the crimes are resolved?
4. Are there certain characteristics or features that victims/criminals exhibit? We would like to have some comparisons in demographics such as, gender, age group, and ethnicity.

C. What research has already been done on the topic or on the theoretical construct of central importance to your topic? What could be learned from survey results? Each group member should locate and review 1 relevant piece of research (e.g., article, report, book, etc)

Emily: <http://www.securityoncampus.org/>

This resource is the official website of the Security On Campus, Inc, a national non-profit organization. The SOC works towards the prevention of college campus crimes through educational awareness and policies. The SOC website is useful in seeing different security measures that are often taken in preventing crimes.

Zhi: <http://www.neighborhoodscout.com/pa/pittsburgh/crime/>

The Neighborhoodscout website is intended to provide an "Enterprise-grade" data for every neighborhood and city in the U.S. Currently, only the general crime rates for Pittsburgh is available without subscription. This report is valuable by raising interesting aspects in data presentation, such as including chances of becoming a

victim and crimes per square miles. A potential idea can be having CMU as the origin and observe a correlation between the distance from CMU and the frequency of the crime rates.

Terence: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs/97402.pdf>  
<http://www1.umn.edu/police/aboutus.html#BodyContent>

The website above is the website for the University of Minnesota Police. This survey and study could provide examples of how crime surveys are conducted in other University Campus.

Kayco:  
[http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/police/files/annual\\_reports/10\\_Police\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/police/files/annual_reports/10_Police_Annual_Report.pdf)

This resource is the 2010 annual crime report from City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police. It gives categorized crime statistics of different neighborhoods in Pittsburgh in 2010. This comprehensive study gives an overview of crimes in the city, which helps to draw comparisons and connections to our study.

Jessica:  
Carnegie Mellon University Police Department 2011 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report - <http://www.cmu.edu/police/images/2011asr.pdf> (Previous reports can be found online at <http://www.cmu.edu/police/annualreports/index.html>)

As the title suggest, this is the yearly crime report for CMU campuses, distributed by the university's police department. This report is highly relevant to our study because it provides us with the official numbers on several types of offenses committed on all CMU campuses since 2008. In addition, the report details the CMU Police Department's policies regarding crimes and general campus safety, their recommendations to students and staff on how to respond to and prevent crimes, and government acts passed relating to campus safety. From this report, we can find trends on the types of crimes reported as well as information on how the data was compiled.