

Homework 2

Student Name: _____

(due Sunday June 29, 2025)

Question 1. The “TED” talks we now refer to is short for T_____, E_____ and D_____ which dates back to a 1984 presentation by a mathematician.

What does the word *snowball* mean, as a verb in particular? Use any dictionary look-up with your own explanation to answer this, with any examples you have.

What does it mean for some person (or things, such as more abstract nouns like ‘my progress at work’) to be “crumbling”?

Question 2 (McGonigal’s Talk). (a) In her talk Dr. McGonigal mentioned once “**people who experienced a lot of stress in the previous year had a 43% increased risk of dying,**” as a piece of fact or evidence she drew from, where here we may first ignore “the previous year” part or just suppose it is any other year in the past. There are multiple things or even contexts in this piece of information, and can you first think about and describe what is “risk of dying” informally and perhaps formally/in scientific terms?

Specifically, try to first think about how it differs from death/death rate itself; and then try to narrow down/define (any standard) measures of such risk, in medicine and/or other fields (e.g. in related to insurance).

(b) The claim quoted in part (a) is followed by “but that **is only true for the people who also believed that stress is harmful for your health.**” How to describe if a person, for example during an interview, will hold a negative opinion about stress (i.e. the person thinks that stress “if harmful” in general)?

To answer this question, you may comment, as an example, how you will design a simple interview/survey question to ask each interviewee such a question.

(your solution goes here)