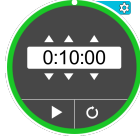




Think of and note down one example of a retrospective and observational study each to share with the class



A series of horizontal lines on the right side of the page, intended for students to write their answers to the prompt.

Although an observational study may identify important variables related to the outcome we are interested in, there is no guarantee that we have found the right or the most important related variables.

A recent medical study revealed that among men who have had a heart attack, those with a higher level of a certain protein in their blood are at greater risk to have a second attack. In situations like this, students should think of three possibilities.

Xcauses Y: The protein causes heart attacks.

Y causes X: The risky condition of the patient's heart produces the protein.

X and Y both result from a third (lurking) variable: Some other unknown aspect of the patient's physical condition or body chemistry causes the second heart attack and also produces the protein as a harmless by-product.

Which is it?

We don't know.







