**Psychology Key Term List 3 Statistics**

Copy these terms on index cards to use as flash cards.

1. **Descriptive statistics**-the listing and summarizing data in a practical way
2. **frequency distribution**-shows how often a score or observation occurs
3. **normal curve**-a graph of frequency distribution shaped like a symmetrical bell-shaped curve.
4. **central tendency**-a number that describes something about the “average” score of a distribution.
5. **Variance**-a measure of difference or spread
6. **standard deviation**-a measure of variability that describes an average distance of every score from the mean of the scores.
7. **correlation coefficient**-a statistic that describes the direction and strength of the relationship between two variables.
8. **inferential statistics**-used to determine whether research data supports a hypothesis or whether results were due to chance.
9. **random sample**-a sample of a larger group that is selected in such a way that each subject within the group has an equal chance of being selected.
10. **Random assignment**-assigning participants to experimental and control groups by chance, minimizing the pre-existing differences among the participants.
11. **operational definition**-shows the exact procedures used to make experiments easy to replicate.