Television and Life Expectancy

5. Even if two variables have a correlation close to +1 or -1 it doesn’t always mean that there is a cause-and-effect relationship between them. Two variables can be strongly associated with each other and not have a cause-and-effect relationship. The explanation is that the two variables are often related to a third variable called the lurking variable.

6. I disagree with the argument that sending television sets to countries with lower life expectancies would cause the people to live longer. A lurking variable that I would suggest would be the wealth of the country. People in a wealthy country would be able to buy more televisions sets than those in poorer countries. Also, a wealthy country would be able to provide better medical care, which would result in a longer life expectancy. A poorer country would not have health care as good as a wealthy country; therefore they would have a shorter life expectancy.