A local radio station recently reported that women are enjoying
longer lives than men in society today. Think about what you
know about older men and women in your family. Is there
anyone that you think is *really* old?

If you came in with some family information about how long some of your great grandparents or
other generations lived, you could get some bonus points on this assignment.

After the class discussion and hearing other students talk about older people they know, The
Math Curse quickly attacks you because of the life expectancies spreadsheets that you made in
pre-algebra class. You decide that setting up a chart and graph would help people look at data
and make a decision for themselves about women living longer.   You ask Mrs. Lewis if you can
search for some data….lucky you! She just happens to have the Statistical Abstract of the
United States stored on the school's server…and she recommends the section about 20th Century
Statistics to you. Off to the computer lab!

(She just HAPPENS to have these exploratory questions for you, too):

Once you are logged into the computer network, follow the path: EXCEL spreadsheet, open file
on public (S) drive, go into in "Mrs. Lewis Geo folder" and find and open the spreadsheet
named Life Expectancies.

Look at the table. It shows you the average lifespans for men and women in the United States
for every ten years from 1930 to 1990.

     1) What kind of graph do you think would best display this data? _____

        Why do you think this is the best choice?

     2) Construct and then print out your graph.

3) In the space below, construct a table to show the differences in years of life expectancy between the genders for all the years given.

4) Construct an Excel spreadsheet of your data table in #3.

5) Construct a line graph of the data in the spreadsheet. Why is a line graph the most appropriate style to display the data?

6) What do you notice about the differences in the ages for each year as time progresses from 1930 to 1990?

7) What might be a reason for the differences you noted in #6?

8) Do you think the pattern you observed in #6 will continue to be the same or change? _____ Justify your opinion, citing information from the chart or graph. What would predict the difference will be when the 2000 Census data is released? _____