Lab Exercise 13 - Freud vs. Skinner

Psychodynamic types (e.g., Freudians) believe that we can discharge "aggressive energy" by harmless aggressive acts like hitting a pillow or yelling. This supposed process is called catharsis. These "harmless" aggressive acts supposedly make actual physical aggression less likely.

On the other hand, behaviorists (e.g., Skinnerians) argue that these "harmless" aggressive acts are practice and actually make physical aggression more likely.

Who's right? I doubt we're going to resolve this question in one undergraduate statistics lab. (Maybe in two or three. Joke!!) But we can at least make a start at it by looking at Leah Ann Waslien's data again. The data and how to get them were described on yesterday's handout. Make sure you have that.

I suggest you complete the following mediation analysis. Fill in the diagram with your results.

Then, on the back of this page, discuss what your analysis suggests about the Freud vs. Skinner debate I've outlined here, if anything!