Project Overview

In this project, you will analyze election polls and their results. In the first part, you will explain how election polls are constructed, analyze advantages of these methods and potential sources of inaccuracy. In the second part, you will analyze data from polls about elections of your choice. You will communicate: (i) what they predict, (ii) how accurate they are and (iii) whether there is a particular challenge for predicting votes for far-right candidates. In the last part, you will summarize your findings, connect the results to the concepts discussed in the first part and propose recommendations / potential ways to improve the accuracy of polls.

Objectives
1. Demonstrate understanding of sampling concepts
2. Create effective data visualizations to communicate polling accuracy and trends
3. Critically evaluate the performance of election polls

Project Components
1. **Theoretical analysis (40% of project grade)**
   a. Explain the mechanics of election polls
   b. Discuss best practices and potential pitfalls in political polling

2. **Data Analysis and visualization (40% of project grade)**
   a. Using Wikipedia pages on election polls:
      i. Extract and organize relevant polling data and actual election results
      ii. Create visualizations about poll accuracy
   b. Your visualizations should show:
      i. Overall accuracy of polls in predicting election outcomes and whether polls are consistently better or worse at predicting far-right election results
      ii. One visualization to try to convince me that polls are accurate
      iii. One visualization to try to convince me that polls are inaccurate
   c. Summarize your findings in maximum 3 key visualizations

3. **Interpretation and conclusions (20% of project grade)**
   a. Synthesize your findings from the data analysis:
   b. Connect your empirical findings with the concepts discussed in Part 1
   c. Propose recommendations:

Deliverables
1. Written report (4 pages maximum, excluding references and appendices)
2. All data visualizations created (3 graphs max)

Resources
- List of Wikipedia pages for election polls.
  - Ex: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opinion_polling_for_the_2002_French_presidential_election
- Access to data visualization tools (e.g., R, Python)
- Course materials on sampling methods and data visualization techniques