Elevator Pitch of Empirical Methods Project

Next class, November 14, you will all be presenting your project proposal in the form of a 4-minute elevator pitch. This is meant to serve three purposes:

1. It will give me a chance to efficiently screen projects and let me intervene if what you pitch is not appropriate for a full proposal (due at the end of the semester).
2. It will let the class know what you are interested in, and let you know who you might be able to work with or get advice from.
3. It will give you some practice explaining what you intend to work on in a short amount of time, which is a useful and surprisingly difficult thing to do.

You'll be surprised how short four minutes really is, but how difficult it can be to figure out what to say if you don't have time. To help here is what I am looking to here:

1. What is the area you are working on and what is the economic contribution of the project? If this is a replication, this is where you give me the contribution of the paper you are going to replicate. The point here is that we know why whatever computational exercise you are going to do is worth doing.

2. What is the key computational component of your paper? I want to know that there is some computational exercise appropriate for the course and feasible. What sort of techniques are required to solve the problem.

3. What is the payoff of this project for you? (Other than fulfilling course requirement.) I'd prefer that your project provide you skills you think will be complementary with your own research interests. However, I want to make sure that the payoff is something that can be managed by the end of Spring semester.

I strongly suggest you practice these ahead of time. I will cut you off at 4 minutes and that will affect your grade. I will ask you a maximum of 1 question once you conclude, so you won't get much immediate feedback from me. However, you should request feedback from your peers after class.

I'll be taking notes as best I can in real time, and I'll refer back to those once I see your proposal. I'll reach out to those who I think need to significantly alter their proposal over Thanksgiving week, otherwise, you won't get much feedback until after you submit initial proposal.