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**Project Two Proposal**

Our research project aims to explore predictors of confidence in the executive branch of the federal government (confed) among U.S. adults, specifically identifying which variables most effectively predict confidence in governmental institutions. We aim to answer the question, which variable or combination of variables best predicts confidence in the executive branch of the U.S. government, and how has this confidence changed over time when accounting for different demographic groups? To answer this, we will analyze age, income, and education in shaping political confidence. To further shape the analysis, we will include demographic factors we know to have an effect on confidence in the executive branch, such as race and political views, with and without the interaction term of what political party was in executive office during each survey year.

For our project, we will use the General Social Survey (GSS) dataset to examine how U.S. sentiments about the government have evolved since the late 1970s in comparison to more recent years to highlight any parallels between historical and recent sentiments during times of conflict. From the GSS data we have created a subset which includes surveys from 1974 to 1980 and 2016 to 2022 for a total of 22,399 observations. The GSS, conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, provides extensive social science data representative of the U.S. population. Since 1972, GSS data has been collected through a simple random sample, initially through face-to-face and, more recently, via phone interviews.

GitHub Link: <https://github.com/JGray-21/DATS-6101-Project.git>