Project Proposal

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Parts of the Proposal

1. Clearly state research question

   - Maybe give a few citations (not full lit review)
   - Give a little information about why interesting
   - Give a little information about what is contribution

2. Describe how you will answer that question

   - What data will you use?
     - Give a good figure/plot/table
   - What theory will you use to interpret the data?
   - What analyses and computational tools will you use?

3. Answer a few questions/manage your time

Logistics of the Proposal

1. Must have slides (PDF)
   - Can be LaTeXBeamer slides
   - Can be PowerPoint slides saved as PDF
   - Can be Keynote slides saved as PDF

2. Must submit slides by 11:59pm, Tuesday, April 4

3. You should talk with me, Soltoff, Ging Cee, or TA's

4. Ideas come from
   - Start looking in area you are interested in
   - Extend a paper you have read
   - Use new method on old question
   - Answer same question with new data (different country)

Things to watch out for

- State your research question clearly
  - Usually, narrower scope is better
  - Title should refer to question

- Make sure can get data

- Manage your time during the presentation

- Don't spend too much time on the literature

- Answer questions but don't get derailed

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DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!

Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic trust and can result in failure in the course and further penalties from the University.

Selected comments from your proposals

"Good initial picture for motivating your question. Seems like the answer to your question will be trivially true. Is there a richer question you can answer?"

"What is your hypothesis? What methods do you plan to use?"

"Interesting. Sounds like an interesting dataset. I worry that the sample will be too small to be representative. ..."

Selected comments from your proposals

"Your initial conjectures were very extreme. I don't know if the data support that. ..."

"Way too much time on Lit review. 5 minute pitch is barely enough time to state your question and how you are going to answer it."

"I think it is unlikely that you will be able to get the data you need to measure ...."

Selected comments from your proposals

"First question is fundamentally difficult. Might be fundamentally unpredictable. ...you should find a topic that you are interested in. ..."

"You should check the literature, especially if this was a dataset that your professor gave you. It is highly likely that someone has done this already."

"Great question. Can you effectively answer this?"

Selected comments from your proposals

"Cool topic of ... in China. That could be a very cool paper if you can get the data. "

"Lots of interesting work using these types of data and these dimensions of heterogeneity. You need to specify your question. That will help you with how your theory needs to look."

"Good justification of project. I like that you want to redo an old paper with better data and better methods. It is going to be hard to get accurate [data from company] I think."

Selected comments from your proposals

"By far, you had the best visualization of the night. I loved that first slide. What is the computational content of your project?"

"Refine your question to focus on particular ... . Statistical learning might be good if you think available models are too simple. ..."

"Really hard to get [that] data. ..."

Selected comments from your proposals

> *"I don't understand the research question. You have a tricky set up here because all the observed data is based on equilibrium prices, supply, and demand. You would need some change in policy (a natural experiment) and compare changes [individual] behavior."*

> *"Sounds like doable experimental design. Focus the question. I like the possibilities with this network analysis design."*