

Prompt for Idea Development Exercise
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This prompt asks you to imagine how you'd try to write a paper based around the following information.

Suppose that you knew that there were thousands of underground storage tanks in the United States. Mostly they contain petroleum products (because they are largely tanks under gas stations). A substantial fraction of them leak at some point after a decade or two. The leaks might be harmful to health, but they would have impacts at a very local level, like within a quarter of a mile of the site (possibly through groundwater contamination, but that may not be the only thing).

Suppose now that you were able to obtain a record of all the leaks that happened in a particular state. The data on leaks includes the start and end of any leak, as reported to the local environmental regulator.

Think through, in some detail, how you might try to construct a paper around this topic. What other data might you try to obtain? What regression would you try to run? How would you frame the paper?

Write a description, not to exceed 1.5 pages, of how you might pursue a research project around these data.

Your response should have the following elements:

1. **An abstract** (less than 100 words). Assume some results for purposes of writing a mock abstract. (Strongly recommend that you write the abstract AFTER doing the other parts.)
2. **Data:** a discussion of what data you would try to gather
3. **Analysis:** a plan of what econometric methods you would deploy
4. **Framing:** this will be embodied in the abstract, but describe briefly here how you might think of framing/positioning the paper