

Short paper

Due: Oct 1, 2020

1. Pick one of the three datasets in Canvas: voting, economic recovery, exonerations
2. Decide on a concise research question and empirical strategy
3. Process the data
 - a. Feel free to merge additional datasets, but you are not required to do so
4. Analyze the data. Consider the following
 - a. Which parts of the analysis are descriptive and which are causal?
 - b. How are you identifying an effect?
 - c. How should standard errors be clustered?
 - d. Are the effects statistically significant?
 - e. Does it make sense to estimate heterogeneous effects?
5. Document your code
 - a. Make sure the code has many comments explaining each step
 - b. Make sure you have a master file that calls all files and runs the code
 - c. Add a readme file that explains what each file does
 - d. Upload the final code to github or another code sharing service
 - i. Note: if you choose the Exonerations dataset, make sure not to upload the actual data to Github. Upload only the code.
6. Write a paper summarizing your work
 - a. Up to six pages, not including figures, tables, and bibliography.
 - i. Use judgement with margins / font / spacing
 - ii. Include 1-2 figures
 - iii. Include 1-2 tables
 - iv. Make sure to include in the first page of the paper a link to where the code is stored (this can be in a footnote after the paper's title)
 - b. Typical structure
 - i. Abstract - up to four sentences
 - ii. Introduction ~ 1 page – includes 1-2 paragraphs mentioning existing literature
 - iii. Background and data - include any details on the setting (e.g., when do voting laws change) that will be relevant for the analysis.
 - iv. Empirical design
 - v. Results
 - vi. Conclusions
 - c. It may make sense to discuss the following
 - i. What are the threats to identification? How did you deal with them and how could future studies deal with the issues?
 - ii. What is the magnitude of the effects?
 - iii. What are the takeaways and implications from the results?
 - iv. What about external validity? Will the results hold in another setting?
 - v. What are the limitations of this study?
 - d. Look at recent papers published in economic journals (e.g., the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*) for inspiration on writing style, structure, and formatting