Project 1 Proposal

Team 2 Dompelgangers

**Project Summary**

Potential High-Level Directions:

\*Evolution of murder as a crime in the Midwest between 1976 - 2016

\*Characteristics of murder in the Midwest between 1976 – 2016

\*Factors in successful murder investigation between 1976 - 2016

**Scope**

Timeframe:1976-2016 (40 years)

Region of Interest: Midwest. Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois

**Interest and Intent:** need to define

**Source Data**

Murderdata.org

**Questions we’d like to answer**

Political influences and murder

* Do gun control laws have an influence on number of firearm deaths?
* Could things like presidential administrations or wartime influence murder rate?

Gender Dynamics and murder

* Are women more often murdered by men or women?
* Are men more often murdered by men or women?

Social/Economic/Community Dynamics and murder

* Are most female homicide victims killed by someone they know or their partner?
* What are the most likely relationships between people involved in murder cases?
* Does population density influence homicide rates?
* Do other factors about living in a city or a rural community influence homicide rates?
* Do rural or urban factors contribute to solved/unsolved homicide case rates?
* How does Midwest or Minnesota specifically match up with other states homicide rates?
* Does the economy correlate with homicide rates?

Technology and murder

* Are solve rates of homicides increasing with improved technology? If not, does this have a correlation with other factors?
* Are offenders using different weapons through time?
* Has the use of social media influenced the rate of homicides and/or the rate of unsolved cases?

Environmental influences and murder

* Do temperatures influence murder rates?

Questions we researched (from Monday 4/3)

1. Circumstances around unsolved crimes
2. Circumstances around solved vs. unsolved
3. Types of weapons used over time in violent crime
4. Types of cases by year
5. Violent Crime: Relationship to victim
6. Ratio of solved vs. unsolved over time
7. Rural vs Urban unsolved over time
8. Rural vs. Urban crime rate
9. Age and Gender of victim
10. Age and Gender of killers