

Models/Computing

POLS 209

Questions

- Come up with a political variable that is most interesting to you. Come up with one example of a normative, descriptive, and causal question for your variable.
- Posit an answer to these questions as a claim.
- Clearly explain why you cannot observe whether your causal claim is true.

Models

- Turnout varies substantially across countries. On average, turnout is about 48% in the U.S., 83% in Brazil, 87% in Denmark, and 93% in Chile. Many researchers believe that low turnout is a problem for a democracy, and would like to see higher turnout increase in the U.S..
 - Make up **two** theories or models that would explain the variation in turnout across countries.
 - Find some critical fact/situation/observation/prediction that will distinguish between the two models. Be explicit about how it simultaneously confirms one model and contradicts the other.
 - Based on your model, what changes might the U.S. make to increase participation in elections?

Evaluating Models

- Truth
- Beauty
 - simplicity
 - fertility
 - surprise
- Justice

Most important?

Least important?

Not important?