**To Do 3/1/17:**

**Presentation:**

* **Why (2-3 slides)**
  + Recent election bringing up questions around the EC and how each voter is represented
* **How (2-3 slides)**
  + **What is the Electoral College:** 
    - Come up with EC infographic (e.g. 2 senators + x reps, majority wins) **(Cendy)**
  + We will create an interactive story so that people can learn what it is, how it impacts their lives that follows logical progression of the typical voter
    - Visual: Scatterplot of VEP vs Voter Power
      * Interaction: Filter by state (color)
    - Supplemental information: Showing EC margin vs popular margin
  + User tasks:
    - Can you tell me how many electoral votes your state has?
    - What is the relationship between VEP (population) and Voter Power?
    - Can you compare the voter power from your state vs another another state for a given election year?
* **What (2-3 slides)**
  + Dashboard with X visuals and X interaction using X dataset

Presentation Notes:

* Why?
  + Overall concept, intended user
  + People want to know what's going on
  + We want a more informed populous so the government can reflect us
* How?
  + A picture is worth 1000 words so creating an interactive story
  + It will be clean and follow design overview, focus, details
  + Follows user-story, logical progression to focus on me
  + User tasks:
* What?
  + To focus our story, we started with some mockups
    - Choices based on ease of understanding and relatability
    - Decided on X view with X interactions
    - Started too big so divided into primary and secondary
* Once we had an idea of design, looked for data to support
  + We're using X, X, X
* Testing: peer feedback here, friends and family
* So here is our current design
* From anyone: please email us at

**The Electoral College and You:**

*What is this electoral college thing and how does it impact me?*

● Names of students in your group: **Cendy Lin, Lisa Minas, Scott Marler**

● What is your project concept?

* **PRIMARY GOALS**
* How am I represented by my electors? How much voting power do I gain/lose being in my state?
  + CL: Vote to include
  + Voter power changes over time (only every census) because house seats change
* What % of the population actually made the difference? How does this compare to the % difference in the popular vote? Fewest number of votes that could have altered the results of the election -- e.g. if three states would have gone the other way, the election would have changed. What was the margin of votes that could have changed. (Aggregate by state to national view?)
  + CL: I think this is important; we could probably do a call-out or zoom-in on the swing states
* How would election results change under popular voting schemes?
  + CL: Vote to include (e.g. popular vote scheme)

Data Needs

* Eligible population per state
* Popular vote per state
* Electoral votes per state
* Election winner
* By year

Interaction

* State selection
* **NICE TO HAVE:**
* How has this representation changed over time?
  + CL: I think we should include the time element only if it helps make our point -- that the electoral college is no longer serving its original purpose
* How has the electoral college impacted voter turn-out?
  + CL: I think this is important for when we discuss the popular vote scheme, just to show that the magnitude of the popular vote data we have currently is understated because of the effect the EC has on voter turnout.
* National events happening during election times
  + CL: I think this is secondary, we can probably take this out
  + How has tech/improvements in communication/news changed how people vote (i.e.. voting on Tuesdays)

● What will be the goals or purpose of your visualization?

* Who is the intended user?
  + Eligible Voters
* What are they looking to get out of our story?
  + A better understanding of how presidential voting works in the United States. The recent election has raised concerns how one candidate can win the popular vote but a large margin yet still not be elected president.
* What questions would they ask?
  + What is the electoral college?
  + Does it have an impact?
  + How does it impact my state?
  + Does my vote count?
* What action items do we want them to take away?
  + Understand why the electoral college was created.
  + See how the electoral college impacts politics today.

● Where will you get your data?

* Voter turnout data: <http://www.electproject.org/home/voter-turnout/voter-turnout-data>
* Electoral College/Popular Vote Results: <http://www.fec.gov/pubrec/electionresults.shtml>
* Census: <http://www.census.gov/population/projections/data/national/>
* Political issues: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/1675/most-important-problem.aspx>
* <http://www.gallup.com/poll/181475/massachusetts-maryland-democratic-states.aspx>

● Ideas for visualizations

* As a percentage of the total population, there were 100,000 people who could have swung the results
* Voting power compared to national average
* Number of votes didn’t count and number of votes that didn’t matter

**Definition of Voter Power**

**Method 1**

X = total eligible **national** voter population

Voter power (popular vote) = 1 / (X/2)

Electoral College

Y = total eligible **state** voter population

Voter power = ( 1 / (Y/2) ) \* ( EV / (538/2) )

(EV/538) / (1/Y) ?

**Method 2**

Voters per elector divided by MAX(voters per elector)

Assumptions:

* Two party system
* Assume all EV for a state go to one party