**Presidential Campaign Funding**

1. Federal Elections Commission. (2016). 2016 Presidential Campaign Finance [Data file]. Accessed 09/12/2016. Retrieved from http://www.fec.gov/disclosurep/PDownload.do

2. Contributor data reported by the FEC can be inspected and copied by anyone; however, it cannot be sold or used “for any commercial purpose or to solicit any type of contribution or donation. Contributor names found in FEC reports are also not allowed to be used to verify names existing on any commercial list. These restrictions exist in order to protect the privacy of individual donors across the United States. Full details can be found at: http://fec.gov/pages/brochures/saleuse.shtml

3. This data set is interesting because it provides insight into the sources of campaign funding for each Presidential candidate this election cycle. Potentially, data analysts could use this data to identify the demographic profile of typical donors for each candidate. In addition, this data can be broken down by U.S. state. This could be interesting for Maryland residents in particular, as analysts could identify donor trends by city/county in order to determine the political affiliations of donor bases across the state of Maryland.

4. This data could be useful to citizens who want to hold their elected officials accountable by revealing their donor bases. In addition, this data could be useful for future political candidates to identify donor networks and potential bases of financial support.

5. What were the average donation sizes for each Presidential candidate? What were the primary sources of funding for each Presidential candidate? Which candidates were most successful in soliciting donations in the state of Maryland?

**CIA and US Military Drone Strikes in Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia**

1. The Bureau of Investigative Journalism. (2016). CIA and US military drone strikes in Pakistan, 2004 to present [Data file]. Accessed 09/12/2016. Retrieved from https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/category/projects/drones/drones-graphs/

2. The Bureau of Investigative Journalism owns a non-commercial license created through the Creative Commons Corporation. According to this license, the public is free to “copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format,” so long as they follow their specific terms of use. Users must attribute all reproduced data to the Bureau of Investigative Journalism and indicate if any changes were made. The information is not allowed to be used for any commercial purposes nor can it be transformed for any purpose. Full details can be found at: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/

3. CIA and US military drone strike data are interesting because they are of major concern to affected civilians living throughout the Middle East. Data analysts could potentially use this data to identify danger zones in areas with high population density. This information could be disseminated via a mobile application in order to minimize civilian casualties and raise general awareness about the disastrous effects of drone warfare.

4. This data would be useful to civilians living in regions affected by drone warfare. It would also be useful to activists in the western world advocating for foreign policy reform and an end to drone warfare.

5. What specific geolocations are most likely to be targeted by drone strikes? How can we mitigate loss of life caused by drone warfare? How accurate are drone strikes and are the high costs actually worth the outcome?

**Medicare Hospital Quality**

1. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). Complications - National [Data file]. Accessed 09/12/2016. Retrieved from https://data.medicare.gov/data/hospital-compare#

2. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) website displays a very brief and ambiguous (and perhaps frustrating) terms of use description. They explain that all provided data sets are contained in the public domain and that permission is not required to use them. CMS also explains that attribution “is appreciated” and that developed materials should not give a false impression that CMS has endorsed any commercial product or service. Full details can be found at: https://data.medicare.gov/about

3. Medicare hospital quality data is interesting because it offers the opportunity of identifying the effectiveness of hospitals which accept Medicare. This is relevant especially today as many politicians have brought up the possibility of implementing a universal health care system, which would effectively extend Medicare coverage to all citizens. By gathering data on our existing Medicare infrastructure and performance, data analysts could provide meaningful context to inform policy reform efforts.

4. Medicare hospital quality data would be useful to citizens enrolled in Medicare so that they could be made more aware of the likelihood of complications and quality of care. It would also be of use to health care reform advocates who seek to implement/oppose a universal health care model in the United States.

5. Are hospitals which accept Medicare providing adequate and substantial care to their patients? How do Medicare hospitals compare to those that do not accept Medicare? Is a universal, Medicare-for-all health care model advisable?

Word Count: 540