**Proposals for Project**

*Due on Sakai by 11:59 PM on October 11, 2021*

*PROPOSALS ARE DUE ON GRADESCOPE*

*DATASETS SHOULD BE POSTED IN SAKAI FORUMS*

**Please also upload a CSV or Excel file with your data. If you are using a 538 dataset, you can upload a link to the GitHub page with the data.**

*Assignment Details*

With your group, write a proposal on a topic that interests you that you have chosen for your extended research paper. Given many of your backgrounds, I imagine that many of the projects will focus on topics in the social sciences and humanities, but you are not limited to these areas. You can assume that your audience is a quantitative researcher in the broad field of study for your project, but not an expert in your specific topic. Every group member should contribute to the writing of the proposal in some way and you should have two or three sentences below your bottom paragraph discussing how everyone contributed.

Your proposal should answer the following questions (70 points):

* **What is your topic? (20 points)**
  + Describe your topic. (10 points)
  + Why is this an important topic? Think especially about why this topic is not just important academically to experts, but to a broader audience. (15 points)
* **What research exists about this topic? (10 points)**
  + Cite at least two academic sources, at least one of which is peer reviewed. These two sources should be from different authors.
    - The Duke library has a series of writing guides available here: <https://guides.library.duke.edu/>.
* **What is your research question? (20 points)**
  + “Don’t simply ask “Is there a relationship between x and y?”. Instead, provide motivation for why a relationship between x and y is worth studying. Use outside resources to investigate this relationship, and explain what you expect to observe from the data. Finally, expand your question to consider other variables in your data set. How might the relationship between x and y change when we consider z?”[[1]](#footnote-1)
  + You should refer to your dataset when making these questions, but you can also make new variables from those in your dataset using dplyr. Your research question is not set in stone at this point and you can make changes after getting feedback from me.
* **Data (20 points)**
  + What data are you using and why will it help you answer your research questions? (10 points)
  + What are your main variables of interest? Why are they appropriate for this project? Please describe 3-4 variables here and include at least one response variable and several explanatory variables. (10 pts.)
    - Please try to find either continuous numerical variable or an ordinal categorical variable with multiple levels (at least 5 or 6) that you can use as your response variable.
    - I have provided a list of data sources with links to the website and will put the most recent ANES on Sakai (you need to log in to get that data). You are welcome to use your own datasets as well, but should discuss how we know they come from a reputable source. If you are planning to use a data source that is not one that I uploaded, please upload an excel file or csv with your proposal. Please ask if you have any questions about data sources.

**Logistics (30 points):**

* 15 points for uploading your dataset or including a link if a 538 dataset.
* 10 points for writing quality
* 5 points for everything else below

Your proposal should:

* be preliminary, but complete; you should have a broad idea of how you will go about executing the entire project, but understand that you may make changes later.
* be well-written; [here](https://www1.cmc.edu/pages/faculty/JPitney/writing.htm) is a link to a guide to writing that Professor Jack Pitney of Claremont McKenna College designed.
* **be at least two pages and no more than three pages, double-spaced, in Microsoft Word and then saved as a PDF**; in addition to this, you should include a Works Cited page that does not count towards the minimum two pages.
* use twelve-point Times New Roman Font with one-inch margins.
* use a consistent citation style of your choice throughout.
* include 2-3 sentences at the end discussing how everyone in the group contributed to the writing of the proposal.

*Rationale*

This the first assignment as you begin working on your projects. This assignment will help you learn how to identify a topic for an extended research paper and then develop an initial framework for how you will study that topic. You will learn more about the research process as you incorporate comments about your proposals in the overall project. You will also be able to revise and edit sections of the proposal you expand upon it for the final paper.

*Rubric*

* 70 points: answering questions above, with breakout as above
* 10 points: writing quality
* 15 points: uploading data to Sakai Forums
* 5 points: other logistics as listed above including having a Works Cited page

1. The research question part of this assignment comes from [Professor Kelly Moran's](https://kelrenmor.github.io/STA101-002/project_files/project_st1_statement) Statistics 101 class. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)