**Proposals for Project**

*Please exchange with your group by noon on Sunday July 19th. (I will send an email about groups this week.)*

*Please turn in a revised draft to me on Sakai by 11:59 pm on Tuesday July 21st.*

*Assignment Details*

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.

Your proposal should answer the following questions (75 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. (10 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.
    - Note: This library guide from my Writing 101 last semester has a video clip on how you can tell if a source is a peer-reviewed academic source. (<https://guides.library.duke.edu/c.php?g=866706&p=6218363>).
* What is your research question? (25 points)
  + “Come up with two interesting research questions that you would like to explore with your data. 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? These questions can be based on the existing variables in your data set, but you are also free to create new variables from the data. You will have the option to update / revise / change these questions after getting feedback on your research questions.”[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Data (20 points)
  + What data are you using and why will it help you answer your research questions? (10 points)
  + Which variables do you think you will use for the project? What is the response variable and what are the explanatory variables? (10 points.)
    - 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 (25 points, 15 points for writing quality, 10 points for everything else)*

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; in addition to this, you should include a Works Cited page.
* use twelve-point Times New Roman Font with one-inch margins.
* use a consistent citation style of your choice throughout.

*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*

For this assignment, 75 percent of the grade will be based upon whether you completely answer each of the above questions under “Your proposal should answer the following questions:.” Another 25 percent of your grade will be based on the following of the above logistics; 15 of these points will be based on the quality of your writing (see the linked guide above for some advice on quality writing) and 10 of them will be based on the other considerations above (e.g., using a consistent citation style throughout, 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)