



M2: Voting Analysis Exercise

Overview

This assignment addresses techniques for answering the following research question:

Could the majority of the popular vote for U.S. President in 2012 have been cast for Romney rather than Obama because of voter fraud?

You are required to work with your group to conduct an analysis on data from the 2012 election to answer this question. You will find a step-by-step video explanation of the background required to complete the assignment in your online course.

Working With Your Group

The best results will be obtained by group members generating ideas on their own and then coming together to talk through the questions and formulate a response. You are encouraged to use Google Docs to collaborate on this assignment.

Deliverables and Format

With your group, you will submit one document containing the following sections.

Take a Look at the Data

In bullet points, list your team's responses to the questions below. While these bullets can be brief, please make sure you clearly identify the data sources, the data field, and the issue in your responses.

- What data fields might be useful in answering the research question and how could you use them?
- How is the data formatted (what type of files, string versus numerical data)?
- Did your team find any missing data?
- Did your team find any data that could be erroneous?
- What unusual facets of the data should the analysis take into account?

Analysis Design

Answer the following question.

- Give a formula for a computation your team would use for this analysis. Describe your computation specifically and how you assess it relative to the criteria in the video.
- Explain why this computation makes sense, in a few short sentences.



Marrying Data Sources

In brief bullet points, list your team's responses to the following prompts.

- What data fields would your team use to tie together the two data sources?
- What software might you use in tying the data sources together?
- What issues do you see in correlating those fields due to, for example, differences in formatting?

Propose a Better Question

Respond to the following questions:

- What improved research question would your team suggest?
- Why is your question an improvement on the original question?

Requirements

Please keep the following in mind as you complete this assignment:

- As in the remainder of this course, the best answers are both comprehensive and succinct.
- This assignment will be graded according to the Voting Analysis Exercise rubric.
- This assignment is best submitted in the form of a Word or PDF document.