

### **Final Project Proposal**

#### **Idea #1:**

- **Problem:** Did the Massachusetts governor react to the pandemic well?
- Who is your target audience?
  - Citizens of the Massachusetts Commonwealth
- Why is your problem important?
  - This problem has far-reaching implications because containing the pandemic can be costly to the welfare of the citizens of Massachusetts.
- What is your approach to this problem?
  - Looking at covid cases, business revenue, executive order, schools
- What is the final expected outcome?
  - We expect to be able to conclude within reason whether or not Massachusetts has done a sound job at containing the pandemic within the Commonwealth.
- Is there any similar prior work?
  - As the pandemic is still relatively new, this would be a relatively brand new data journey.
- How would you make your project unique?
  - Our project would be unique as we would be one of the firsts to look into how the pandemic has been handled in Massachusetts and we would be able to provide our own unique perspective as we are living through this pandemic in Massachusetts.
- How would you plan to manage your team work?
  - Meeting weekly in order to stay on top of our agenda

#### **Idea #2:**

- **Problem:** Do you think that the electoral college is just?
- Who is your target audience?
  - Those who live in the United States and are seeking to better understand how our democracy and, specifically, the election process works
- Why is your problem important?
  - Our problem is important because it has been a long-standing issue of whether the electoral college is just or not. Recently, there have been claims that if the election was based only on the popular vote then a Democrat would have been elected every single year of the election. We want to look into whether or not the electoral college serves a fair and just purpose.
- What is your approach to this problem?
  - Looking at different elections and their popular vote, electoral college votes, House composition, and the elected President
- What is the final expected outcome?

- We expect to be able to provide a definitive answer as to whether or not we believe the electoral college is fair, and we will try to convince our audience of this belief, while backing up our belief with data so that we are being truthful.
- Is there any similar prior work?
  - There have been many investigations into the electoral college, as this is a massive topic with far-reaching implications.
- How would you make your project unique?
  - We serve as a unique perspective to this project as we are college students from Generation Z, who recently partook in and watched a very close election.
- How would you plan to manage your team work?
  - Meeting weekly in order to stay on top of our agenda

### **Idea #3:**

- Problem: How did the top 100 universities react to the pandemic?
- Who is your target audience?
  - Americans, specifically students and various school administrations
- Why is your problem important?
  - With the many ways higher education institutions have decided to plan in response to the pandemic, we want to see why some schools have done better than others. Also, with the risk of future pandemics, we want to see whether there is an optimal way to respond and keep students and the communities in which they study safe.
- What is your approach to tackling this problem?
  - We want to use the schools in the US News Top 100 and compare their responses. We want to use the testing data and plans released by these schools. Also, we want to see the state reopening plans that are in place where those schools are. We also want to look at other information about schools that may have affected their response and infection rate.
- Is there any similar prior work?
  - With the pandemic, there have been some but not comparing this many schools.
- How would you make your project unique?
  - Generating our own data would allow us to tailor the data and show what we want to find. Our perspective as college students at a Top 100 school and the hybrid plan BC has put in place allows us to make it unique and embed our experience within the project.
- How would you plan to manage your team work?
  - Meeting weekly in order to stay on top of our agenda

### **Idea #4:**

- Problem: How is garbage managed in the United States?

- Who is your target audience?
  - Citizens of United States who care for the environment
- Why is the problem important?
  - Garbage mass and poor garbage/recycling management is causing pollution across the US
- What is your approach to tackling this problem?
  - Look at State laws, exports of garbage to other countries, citizen response to garbage areas in town
- What is the final expected outcome?
  - We can visualize how different states/cities are handling the garbage amount and infer the projection of such processes for the future
- Is there any similar prior work?
  - N/A
- How would you make your project unique?
  - We can include unique visualizations to show garbage management and take into consideration whether the pandemic has led to more or less garbage mass.
- How would you plan to manage your team work?
  - Weekly meetings to split up work and make progress