PS 1599 – Research Report

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# Overview

This document provides guidance regarding the Research Report due for PS 1599 at the end of the semester. This report is worth 40% of your final grade.

# Idea

A research report is a short document that summarizes the key past research and data on a specific topic.

The topic you are asked to address is: “***Who is (or isn’t) interested in, and supportive of, renewable energy technology?***” As you know from the class, demand for new clean technologies is critical for sustainable development. But not everyone will be equally interested!

To answer this question, you are asked to study recent survey data from Pew, a non-partisan think tank based in Washington DC that specializes in US and global politics. Every 2-3 months, Pew conducts a survey of people living in the United States. In 2021, they asked people about their views about renewable energy. This includes questions such as:

* “How much, if anything, have you read or heard about generating electricity from wind turbine “farms”?”
* “Thinking about the country’s energy supply, do you think the U.S. should phase out the use of oil, coal and natural gas completely, relying instead on renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power only”
* Etc.

Here is your job: can you write a report in which you provide us with more information regarding **who is interested in and supportive of renewable energy**? By “who,” I mean: can you tell us more about the profile of these people (age, gender, etc.)?

To do so, you will attend four workshops run by our Teaching Assistant, Chuang Chen ([chen.chuang@pitt.edu](mailto:chen.chuang@pitt.edu)). Chuang has already conducted similar workshops for other classes and knows what kind of challenges you may face. Thus, these workshops will be primarily devoted to learning how to use software like Excel to explore, analyze, summarize, and present data (here: survey data). These are extremely valuable skills that can be used in a wide range of settings. In fact, if you followed this class, you know how important familiarity with new technologies is…