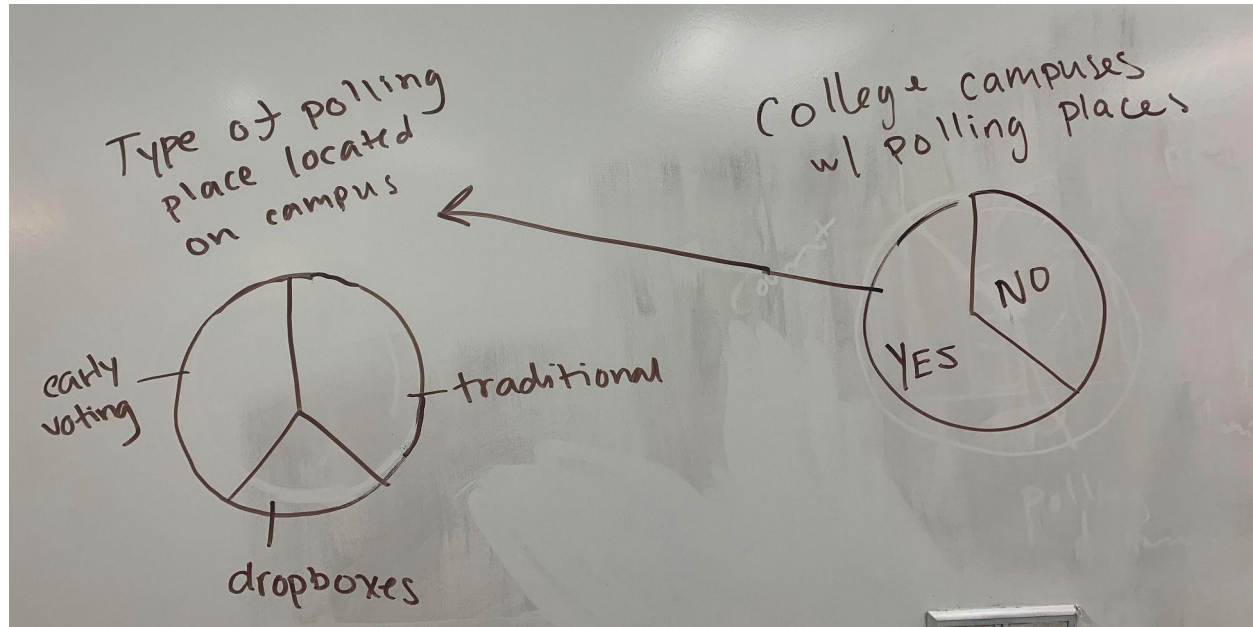
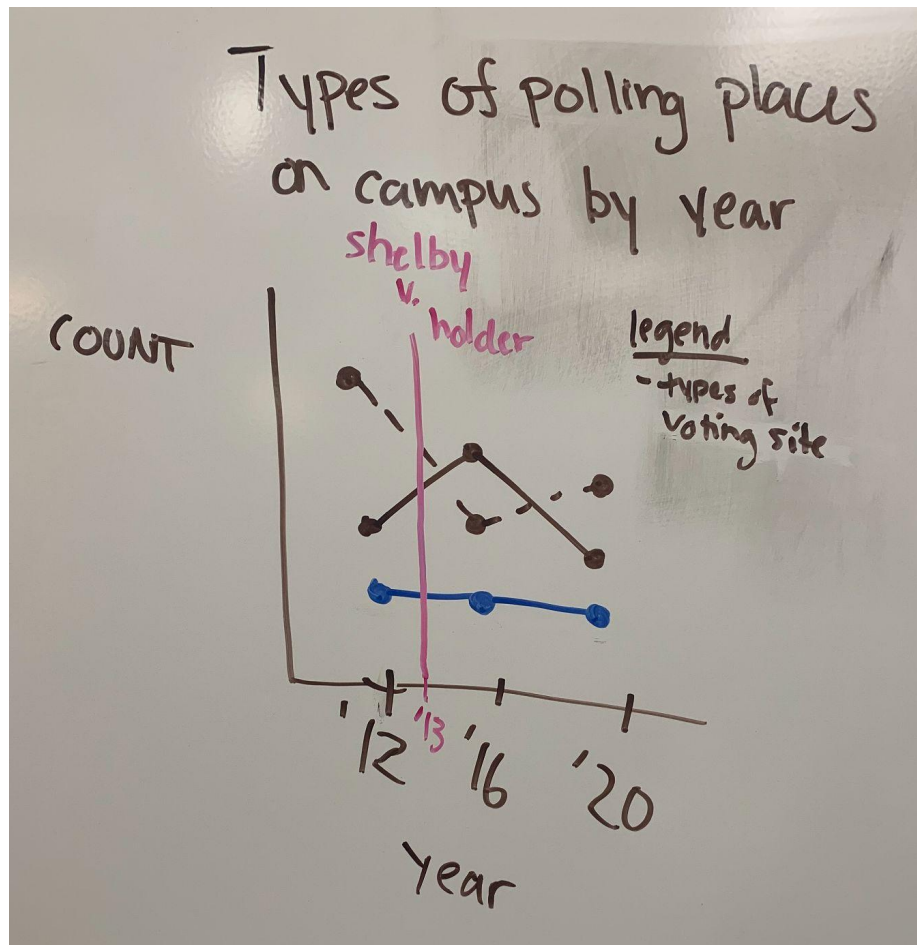


## MIDS Capstone Polling Places Backwards Design

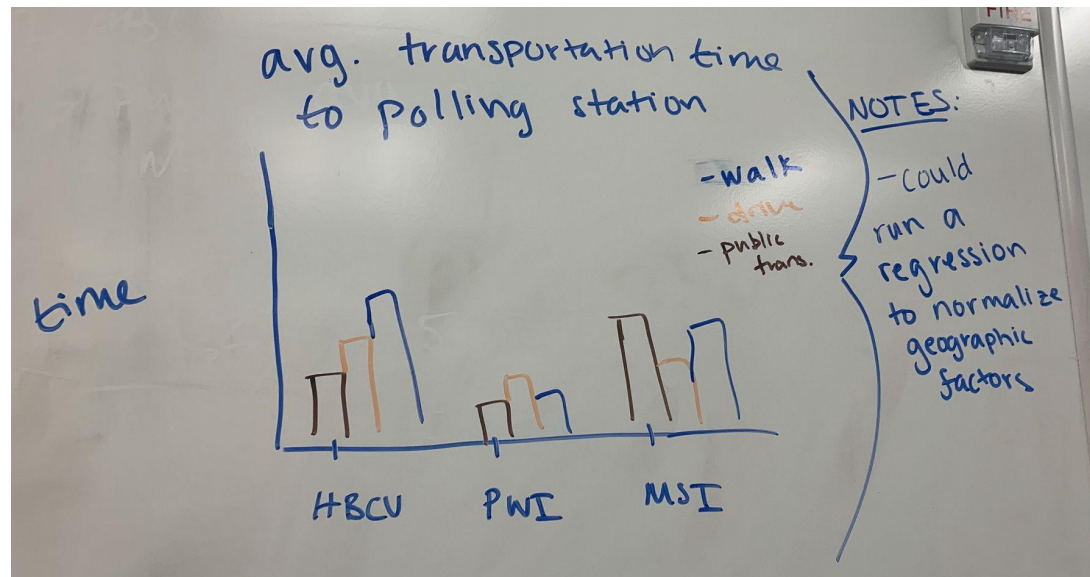
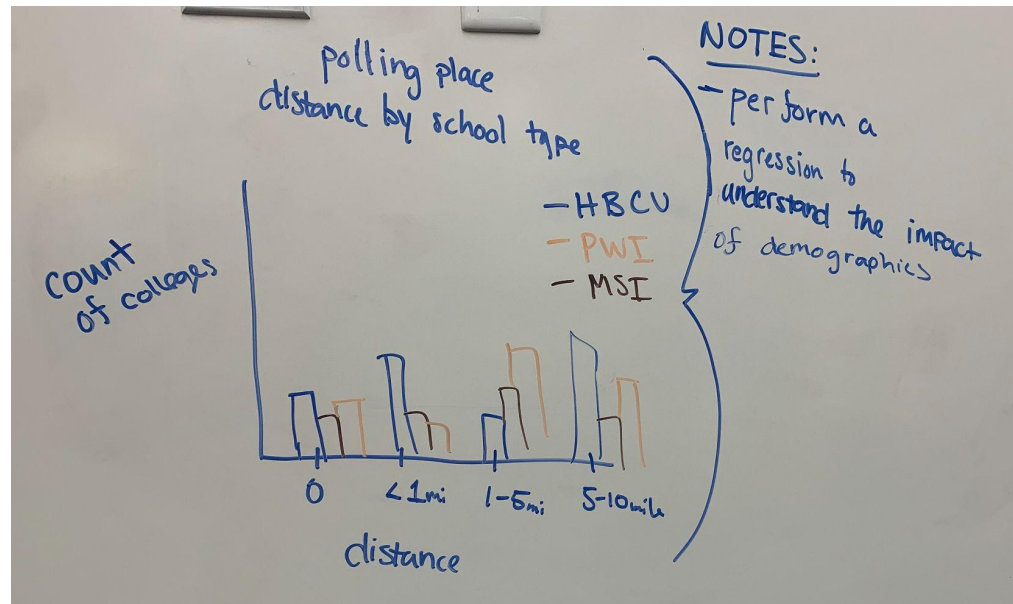
- 1) Define your problem
  - a) Historically, younger voters have the lowest voter turnout (<http://www.electproject.org/home/voter-turnout/demographics>). The largest concentration of young adults / voters are located in colleges across the country. We are looking to understand the relationship between different types of colleges (by race, gender, income, etc) and their proximity to polling places.
- 2) Define the question you wish to answer
  - a) How many and which schools across the country have election-day voting sites on their college campuses? What types of voting sites are they i.e. early voting, same-day voting, dropboxes etc.?
  - b) How has this changed, if at all, over the last three presidential election cycles (2012, 2016, 2020)? While it is unlikely we can draw any causality, how has this changed since Shelby v. Holder?
  - c) How does the presence of a polling place on campus / the distance to the nearest voting location differ depending on the type of school and student demographics?
  - d) For those schools that do not have on-campus election-day voting options, what is the average travel distance to their nearest early voting booth by foot, public transportation, or car?
    - i) Further questions to consider:
      - (1) Is there any difference in all of the above depending on the political leanings of who is in control of local county-boards of election/the secretary of state? (This would be a bonus question but would not be a core question of the study.)
- 3) Write down what an answer would like
  - a)



b)



c)



d)

- 4) What data do you need?
  - a) We would need polling place data for 2012, 2016, and 2020.
  - b) Geo-data, preferably polygons, for all college campuses
  - c) Demographic data for college campuses/their surrounding area (Race, Gender, Income, etc.)
  - d) Classification of colleges (PWI, HBCU, MSI, etc.)
- 5) Where can you get that data?
  - a) Public Sources -
  - b) 2020 Polling Data - <https://www.safegraph.com/2020-polling-location-data>
    - i) <https://github.com/Publicl/us-polling-places/>
  - c) College Campus Polygon - <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/4f4e4acee4b07f02db67fb39>

## Brief/Questions for Informational Interviews

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us as we embark on our Capstone project. We look forward to learning more about the issues surrounding voter participation and turnout. We're in the process of understanding and shaping our project.

- Currently, our project is focused on answering four key questions.
  - How many and which schools across the country have election-day voting sites on their college campuses? What types of voting sites are they i.e. early voting, same-day voting, dropboxes etc.?
  - How has this changed, if at all, over the last three presidential election cycles (2012, 2016, 2020)? While it is unlikely we can draw any causality, how has this changed since Shelby v. Holder?
  - How does the presence of a polling place on campus / the distance to the nearest voting location differ depending on the type of school and student demographics?
  - For those schools that do not have on-campus election-day voting options, what is the average travel distance to their nearest early voting booth by foot, public transportation, or car?
- We've assumed that distance to polling places and/or their presence on campus would increase voter turnout. Have you found this to be true in your work? If not, what are other factors that might hinder voter turnout for college students/young people?
- Are there any other dimensions you'd encourage us to explore related to young people and voter participation?
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