Your Name

Your Title

**Introduction**

Research Question [15 words]: State a general research question that you can answer using one of the methods you learned (or will learn) in class. (Note how, in the above example, the research question and the theory are general, as they do not name specific leaders or policy areas. Also note that a research question must be open-ended, i.e., do not ask yes/no questions).

**Literature Review**

Go on Scholar Google and find a scholarly article, published within the last 5 years, that answers this question (or a similar one). What is the theory used in the article? [2-3 sentences]. Do this for 5 articles.

Improvement on the previous literature [50 words]: How does your theory advance on the one used in the articles you mentioned above.

**Theory** [200 words]

Propose a logically consistent theoretical model that answers your question. Make sure to explicitly state all your assumptions. (Note that it is more important that your theory is logically consistent than correct. If you cannot fit within the word limit, clarify your theory.)

**Hypothesis** [15 words]

Derive a prediction from your theory. Make sure that your hypothesis includes the independent variable, the dependent variable, and specifies the relationship between them.

**Research Design**

*You must use at least one of the tools learned in class to test your hypothesis*. *Explicitly state which tool(s) you are using.*

Describe the data will you use to answer your question. [1-2 sentences to answer each of the following] Where will you obtain the data (e.g., website)? What is the unit of analysis? What is your sample (temporal and geographical scope)? How will you measure your independent and dependent variable?

Endogeneity [200 words]: What is your strategy for ruling out confounders, especially reverse causality? How does your research design help address the issue of endogeneity, that is, that the observations are not randomly assigned into the treatment and control groups? Does your data meet the assumptions of the chosen design? Describe the results of any assumption checks that you performed.