

# Research Project

For your research project, you'll use the tools you learned this semester to analyze a data set. You may use any tools you like, so long as you use them appropriately.

You'll turn in two items:

1. An R script compiled to a notebook—the same way you created the PDF to submit for the two computing assignments.
2. A short paper or report (perhaps 3 to 5 pages) describing your data analysis. I prefer a short, careful paper that examines a narrow claim thoroughly.

For this project, I provide a data set from the 2016 ANES, which is a nationally representative sample survey. I have cleaned and organized the data set. You can find the data set (and download instructions) on [GitHub](#).

The data set includes several “feeling thermometers.” These variables have the prefix `ft_`. When conducting the survey, the interviewer reads the following script:

*I'd like to get your feelings toward some of our political leaders and other people who are in the news these days. I'll read the name of a person and I'd like you to rate that person using something we call the feeling thermometer.*

*Ratings between 50 degrees and 100 degrees mean that you feel favorable and warm toward the person. Ratings between 0 degrees and 50 degrees mean that you don't feel favorable toward the person and that you don't care too much for that person. You would rate the person at the 50 degree mark if you don't feel particularly warm or cold toward the person.*

*If we come to a person whose name you don't recognize, you don't need to rate that person. Just tell me and we'll move on to the next one.*

For this project, I'd like you to describe one or two of the feeling thermometers using the one, two, or three other variables (social class, race, age, sex, education, income, religion, religious attendance, or party identification).

You do not need to use all the variables. Choose one or two feeling thermometers to focus on. Use perhaps two or three of the other variables to describe how the feeling vary across groups. For example, you might be interested in religion and racial politics. If so, you could create a histogram and compute the average of the BLM feeling thermometers for each religious group. You could find the groups that feel most and least warm and the groups that have the most and least variation in their feelings.

If you're only interested in certain subgroups, feel free to filter by that group. For example, if you want to study only Black respondents, then feel free to filter by race (e.g., `filter(anes, race == "Black")`).

Two warnings.

- First, you do not need to explore the data completely or broadly. Instead, focus on a single, narrow question/claim and address it completely.
- Second, write a high-quality report. While I want the claim to be narrow and focused, I want to report to be well done. You can see an example paper that I wrote [here](#). Because the paper is short, you should focus on writing well rather than writing a lot.

- Spend some time making sure you write clearly. There's no page minimum—just write a nice paper.
- Spend some time designing a document that looks fantastic. You can be creative, but create a readable, professional document.
- Spend some times making your tables and figures look awesome.