DA 401, Spring 2023  
Professor Matt Lavin  
Early Results Assignment  
This short paper should summarize your early findings. The focus is on communicating a preliminary—but nevertheless concrete—summary, discussion and initial interpretation of your quantitative results, complete with polished visuals and quantitative data and analysis. The purpose of this assignment, in part, is to show significant progress on your project analysis and to demonstrate the viability of your work. Note: This assignment should not be comprised solely of Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA). The goal is to enact the methods section of your final paper as fully as is possible at this stage, with the caveat that you might discover your method to be less viable than you thought (in which case you will revise it for the next version).

Your early results submission should include:

A Working Title:

Should be catchy but descriptive; maybe what you think your final paper will be  
titled.

Problem Statement or Introduction:  
Restate your main research question (1 short paragraph of setup. It would be useful to make your research question(s) clear, and your hypotheses or expectations you had before conducting the analysis).

Materials and Methods:

Brief description and justification of your data and methods (this is not your methods section - just a brief restating of the main data sources, variables, and analytical methods used, with citations as needed, perhaps 1 paragraph)

Early Results:

The bulk should focus on presenting and interpreting your early results, statistical analysis, and visuals.

Visuals:

These can be presented in text where you discuss (don’t just paste them all at the end). You should include whatever visuals you think are the most useful at this point in the analysis, but should have at least 2. All visuals should be polished and professionally prepared.

Conclusion:

A short (no more than 1 paragraph) conclusion may be useful to restate your results in terms of the data and domain, or to state next steps you plan to take in the coming weeks.

References:

Like all other assignments so far, make sure all outside sources are cited properly, with in-text citations and a works cited page (or footnotes with a bibliography). You can use any citation style your domain area tends to use, such as MLA for languages and literature, APA for psychology, biology and social sciences, and Chicago style for history. Whatever you choose, you should use well-established standard and keep your choice consistent throughout the submission. Every citation in the reference section should be cited at least once in the text, everything cited should appear in the list of works cited.

Github Repo:

Your first reference should be a link to a Github Repository with code, data, and  
documentation. If you wish to make the repo private, you should add me as a collaborator. (My Github username is MJLavin80.)

Assignment Details  
Length: 2-3 pages double spaced (not counting visuals or references page), in standard font and size.  
Due Date: 11:59 p.m., Friday, March 10, 2023  
How to Turn it In: Upload as PDF on Canvas (include a link to your Github repo as first footnote or reference)  
Visual Presentation: On the Tuesday following Spring Break, bring to class a one-slide presentation with a summary of your preliminary results and at least one data visualization. Plan to present on this visualization for no more than three minutes.