UVA - Exploring vs. Confirming Data (#22245)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
Participants will make predictions about which factors are related to election outcomes for the House of Representatives. One group (the exploratory condition) will see a table of election outcomes and a list of conditions (unemployment, GDP growth, inflation, etc.) at the time of the election. They will make predictions about whether 12 factors are related to the election result for the House. The other group (the confirmatory group) will first make predictions about whether 12 factors are related to the election result for the House, then after making these initial predictions, they will see the same table of election outcomes as the exploratory condition, and make an updated set of predictions. We predict that the confirmatory group will rate a greater number of factors as being predictive of the election result than the exploratory group.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
The number of factors (out of 12) that participants rate as being predictive of election outcomes for the House.

Specifically, we will compare the number of factors that participants in the exploratory condition select to the updated (final) number of factors that participants in the confirmatory condition select. For each of the 12 factors, participants can select "Republicans Wins Seats", "Republicans Lose Seats", or "Unrelated to Election." We will score factors rated as being associated with republicans winning seats or republicans losing seats as predictive of election outcomes (we will score "Republicans Wins Seats" and "Republicans Lose Seats" as 1, "Unrelated to Election" as 0, and sum across the 12 factors).

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
Two conditions - exploratory and confirmatory.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
We will conduct an independent samples t-test to compare the average number of factors rated as being predictive of election results for the House between two conditions.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
We will exclude participants who fail an attention check. Specifically, participants will be asked to recall whether they made predictions once or twice (recall which condition they were in) and they will be excluded if they respond incorrectly to this item.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.
This study will be the first in a 20-minute session of surveys. We will collect data until 1,500 participants have completed the entire 20-minute survey session (and at least 1,500 participants have correctly answered the attention check for this survey). Because participants sometimes drop out of the session before completing the entire 20 minutes, it is possible that more than 1,500 participants will complete this study.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
Nothing else to pre-register.