Project Proposal

a. The names of the students who will be contributing to the group project.

Alex Wang, Jace Goetsch, Waseem Ebrahim and Siddharth Ahuja.

b. A tentative title for the project.

The tentative title for the project is 'Analysis of Terror Attacks across Different Nations'.

c. Description of the data files (what they contain including number of variables and number of records). You do not necessarily have to list all the variables, but at least mention those of greatest importance.

We are using two data files for this project. The first data file we are using is from the 'Global Terrorism Database' (GTD). This data file contains data from terrorist attacks since 1970. It has over 170,000 observations. The variables of greatest importance in this data set are location of attack, date of attack, deaths from attack and whether the attack was successful (this variable is a dummy variable).

The second data file we are using for this project is the 'Suicide Attack Database' which is part of the 'Chicago Project on Security and Threats' (CPOST). This contains data on suicide terrorist attacks since 1974. It has over 50,000 observations. The variables of greatest importance in this data set are location of attack, date of attack, deaths from attack and whether the attack was successful (this variable is a dummy variable).

d. Background information on the data sets, including specific citation of their source (so that I can also access it).

Global Terrorism Database (GTD):

- Link: https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/contact/
- This is a regularly maintained database which is annually updated by the University of Maryland.

- The data can be accessed through the link above, then clicking on 'Action' -> 'Download Full GTD Dataset'.
- The data is presented in Excel.

CPOST Data:

- Link: http://cpostdata.uchicago.edu/search_new.php
- This is a regularly maintained database which is annually updated by the University of Chicago.
- The data set can be accessed through the search function in the link above.
- The data is presented in Excel.

e. A brief statement of the business, science, or research interest you have in the data set which you hope to explore.

We have taken another class called 'Economics of War and Terror' (ECON 490) which shows us how we can analyze terrorism in the past in order to help reduce/prevent such events in the future. The research we will perform through this project will allow us to build on what we learned in that class. We will be able to test some of the theories we learned in that class as we have such a large dataset from so many nations through several years.

f. Description of data preparation that you intend to do (e.g., merging, joining, subsetting).

We will merge the GTD dataset with the CPOST dataset to get a better picture of all terrorist attacks that have occured. We will also create another dataset which specifically analyses suicide attacks since this is what CPOST focuses on (This dataset will merge the CPOST data with only the suicide attacks in the GTD dataset). Once we have created these 2 data sets we can analyse the number of attacks per year, deaths from attacks and success rate of attacks.