

# GOVT 2304 - Research Exercise 4

Due Monday, November 23

*Read all directions carefully and follow them closely.*

All work, unless otherwise noted, is to be typed, double spaced in 12 point font with 1" margins and left aligned. Follow the rules set forth in the previous exercise.

## **Part I: Testing significance in a cross-tabulation**

I want to ascertain that you can perform a hypothesis test correctly so that when you test the research hypothesis for your project, it is not your first time doing so. Read carefully through exercise 2 in Le Roy's chapter 10, perform each required step with the variables the author directs for this exercise, and type your results in paragraph form. Present a table (race vs. support for execution) typed and in an organized manner that performing the assignment requires; do not cut-and-paste the software's output (use Table 9.5 on page 168 as the standard). Use the text as guidance for choosing the correct inferential statistic and determining the required level of statistical significance.

Answer, in paragraph form, all questions the authors present you.

**Part II: Revising the hypothesis formulation stage**

Revise the hypothesis formulation state from Research Exercise 3 I returned to you, taking special care to address all the comments and suggestions you receive. Resubmit the revised portion with the component you will complete below. (Also include the original version upon which I have written comments, attached to your revised work with a paper clip.) Do not revise and resubmit the comparative politics portion from Research Exercise 3; you are now focused on the Research Paper and your unique inquiry.

**Part III: Conduct a short literature review**

A cogent research paper includes a literature review that compiles any relevant information on the topic which you have already begun your inquiry. The object is to present a succinct summation of what research has been done in your chosen subject area, the various conclusions and controversies regarding the topic, and what issues have yet to be resolved. *The purpose of the literature review is not to find support for your hypothesis or argument; it is to present the work already completed regarding your subject.* A good literature review will concentrate on books and articles published in academic journals, but since this is presumably your first attempt at such an exercise I will allow the use of journalistic inquiries such as newspaper stories, published editorials and coverage of your topic in news magazines and other respected

periodicals. Internet sources can be legitimate sources of political research, although approach Internet sources critically, as many of them are not reputable. You must obtain at fewest four (4) sources for your review and cite each properly according to MLA or APA guidelines; include a references page. One way you might begin your task is to peruse introductory textbooks. These books approach topics in ways that are easily understood and cite very prominent sources that you might find very helpful.

This is not supposed to be an original work since you are presenting a summation of previous research, so do not draw your own conclusions yet. Similarly, avoid presenting statistical findings and methods others have published; focus on their conclusions and contributions. The length of the literature review should be about three (3) pages (excluding the references page) in the usual format. All work must be typed, double spaced in 12 point font with 1" margins and left aligned. There will be a penalty for ignoring these guidelines. The references page should employ a "hanging indent," in which every line after the first is indented. A sample references page will appear below.

Below is a very brief excerpt of a sample literature review that will help you understand how to introduce and credit others' work in a succinct yet competent matter (I have changed the font to accent the fact that the following is an excerpt; do not mimic this technique anywhere in your paper):

Using the most widely accepted indicators of partisan fortunes, scholars have assembled models that have performed quite well at predicting partisan swings. The first of these factors is the notion of short-term surge and decline: a decisive presidential victory measured in winning share of the two-party vote is followed by a large swing in the subsequent midterm elections. This has translated to 2.5 seats for every percentage point margin in the previous presidential election (Campbell 1992, 1993). Second is the level of presidential popularity at the time of the midterm elections. Given the 43% approval rating President Clinton endured in 1994, 9% below the average from 1946-1994, the low popularity suggested still a loss of only nine or ten seats (Campbell 1997). Change in real disposable income per capita in 1994, at 2.5%, was significantly higher than the 1946 to 1994 average of 1.4% and would seem to favor the incumbent party both in the House and presidency, but the role of the economy in determining the outcome of congressional elections is subject to debate (see Erikson 1990 and Jacobson 1990b). It is difficult, however to imagine voters punishing the incumbent party for economic prosperity. Models employing the above variables predicted varying losses for Democrats in 1994, the most pessimistic forecasting twenty seats. Campbell (1997) has discussed the results of a 1994 roundtable where some of the leading scholars of congressional elections presented such forecasting models which greatly underestimated Democratic losses in that year's midterm elections (Abramowitz 1994, Campbell 1994a, 1994b; Lewis-Beck 1994).

*Two things to keep in mind:*

First, do not name and present each source sequentially as if a literature review were a series of miniature book reports. Avoid the temptation to narrate your research using tedious introductions such as: "In the first article I found called..." Present a

flowing summary that ties all the published work together as if it were a single essay, creating new paragraphs whenever new ideas or points are summarized.

Second, do not name each article or text; cite authors (and year published), not the titles. (Titles should only be used to indicate a source if no author is attributed; such sources are dubious at best.)

On the following page is a sample references page (and provides examples of how to list various types of sources):

[\*APA Formatting and Style Guide\*](#)

[\*MLA Formatting and Style Guide\*](#)

## References

- Abramowitz, Alan I. 1988. "Explaining Senate Election Outcomes." *American Political Science Review*. 82:385-403.
- Abramson, Paul R., John H. Aldrich and David W. Rohde. 1987. "Progressive Ambition among United States Senators: 1972-1988." *The Journal of Politics* 49:3-35.
- Achen, Christopher H., and W. Phillips Shively. 1995. *Cross-Level Inference*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Ford, Royal. 1992. "Andrews, Snowe lead Maine Reelection Bids; Election '92." *The Boston Globe*, November 4, Metro/Region 38.

*After completing your work, reread the assignment to make sure you have followed every direction correctly and performed each task fully.*