

PUBLIC OPINION AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY  
*Term Project Instructions*

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- Step 1: Read the sample research report.
- Step 2: a) Open the GSS 2000 file in *MC ExplorerIt*; b) click the CODEBOOK option; c) then use the right arrow to work your way through the variables available; and d) print out copies of those variables that interest you most (*this is crucial -- if your topic is not interesting to YOU, you will not be properly motivated*). Repeat Step 2 with the N.E.S. 2000 file.
- Step 3: a) Choose your dependent and independent variables; b) using the sample research report as a style guide, write down tentative univariate and bivariate hypotheses; c) run *MC ExplorerIt* frequencies tables for each of your variables; and d) run an *MC ExplorerIt* crosstabulation table with the dependent variable as the *row* variable and the independent variable as the *column* variable (ask for the Cramer's V statistic and cells with column percentages). Show this work to me.
- Step 4: a) Choose your control variable; b) using the sample research report as a style guide, write down a tentative multivariate hypothesis; and c) rerun your *MC ExplorerIt* crosstabs table with the control variable as the *layer* variable (ask for the Cramer's V statistic and cells with column percentages). Show this work to me.
- Step 5: Search the subject index of your textbook and the Internet for research findings relevant to your hypotheses. Show this work to me.
- Step 6: Using the *MS-Word*® report template emailed to you, write an initial draft of the introduction and methods sections of the paper. Show this work to me.
- Step 7: a) Analyze the *MC ExplorerIt* frequency table for your *dependent* variable and write your *univariate* findings; and b) copy the *MC ExplorerIt* frequency table and paste it into your *MS-Word*® file. Show this work to me.
- Step 8: a) Analyze the *MC ExplorerIt bivariate* crosstabulation; b) write your bivariate findings; and c) copy the *MC ExplorerIt bivariate-crosstabs* table and paste it into your *MS-Word*® file. Show this work to me.
- Step 9: a) Analyze *MC ExplorerIt multivariate* crosstabulation; b) write your multivariate findings; and c) copy the *MC ExplorerIt multivariate-crosstabs* table and paste it into your *MS-Word*® file. Show this work to me.
- Step 10: Write the substantive conclusions. Show this work to me.
- Step 11: Write the methodological conclusions. Show this work to me.
- Step 12: a) Run the *MS-Word*® spelling and grammar checker; and b) correct all errors.

## **RULES FOR CAPITALIZING**

- Be sure your project's title on the title page is in *all* capital letters. Everything else on the title page should be in *headline* caps.
- Main headings and table titles should be in all capital letters. Subheadings should be in headline caps.
- Also use headline capitalization rules in the *titles* and *subtitles* in your references.
- Under **headline capitalization rules** --
  - *Capitalize*: the first word in the *title*, the first word in the *subtitle*, and all words that are major terms -- nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs.
  - *Do not capitalize* articles, conjunctions, or prepositions in titles *unless* they are the first word of the title or subtitle. If you don't know whether a word is an article, conjunction, or preposition — *look it up in a dictionary*.

## **RULES FOR PUNCTUATING**

- Commas and semicolons are followed by *one* space. Periods and colons are followed by *two* spaces — except where:
  - the period is used to indicate an abbreviation that does *not* end a sentence or major field,
  - the colon is used in the *vol:page* field of references to articles in journals.

## **PREPARATION OF FINAL COPY**

- Submit one laser-print copy.
- Remove any *blank* pages that the laser printer may insert in your research report.
- *Align* the pages before stapling them together. Use *one* staple in the top left-hand corner — preferably at a 45 degree angle to the top and side.
- Do *not* use a binder.
- ***Deadline is 5 pm, Thursday, 27 April 2006 -- in my office LH-260.*** There is a letter grade (10 point) penalty for each day (*not* just week day) a project is turned in late past the deadline