

Assignment Series #1



Elections Beyond the Headlines

Telling the Story of a Local or State Election



Federal races dominate headlines, but your mayor/city council and state elections shape daily life. This assignment puts the focus on those local elections that often get overlooked.

Using [Political Science Debates](#):

1. Pick an American local or state (no federal) election cycle from any cycle since 2016.
2. Research media about the election, provide a list of citations for that media. (Keep in mind for local elections local newspapers and television can be excellent resources).
3. Answer the questions – ☐ When and where was the election? ☐ Who ran in the race? ☐ What were the political positions of each candidate? ☐ Was it a high-profile race? ☐ Were there any hot button issues? ☐ Were there any scandals? ☐ What was unique about the election cycle that you selected?
4. Ask for a list of citations in APA format with URLs. Double check that the sources are accurate.
5. Look up the demographic data about the locale, region, state, etc. where your election took place. Answer the questions ☐ Who lives there? (age, race, income, urban/rural)
☐ Who voted there? (party affiliation, turnout by demographic).
6. Ask for a list of citations in APA format with URLs. Double check that the sources are accurate.

Using [Data Story Generator](#) generate a story about the election and voters. It may be in a format of your choice written narrative, audio, video, or slide deck.

1. Ask for a list of citations in APA format with URLs. Double check that the sources are accurate.

Requirements:

1. Present your story to the class. Include answers to all of the prompt questions.
2. Fact check your story using [Political Science Fact Check](#).
3. Provide a complete bibliography of all citations provided by the GPTs in APA style.
4. Include a short reflection on: your prompting steps, how you verified sources, and any gaps or biases you noticed. Specifically explore any conflicting information provided by local, national or social media sources.

*As always, if you find the GPT using Wikipedia, please remind it that the GPT instructions say no Wikipedia.