

Proposal #1:

A interest (good current events angle) 20/20

B research questions 20/20

looking at major vs politics is interesting. other aspects covered good too. will require refinement as you move forward.

C. referneces 2/10

only one reference??

Proposal #2:

A. interest seems ok, not great 15/20

B. research questions fine 20/20

I like the idea of competing hypotheses about perceived bother of emergency vehicles, even though surveys are not great at causal investigation. note that to really carry this out though you would probably have to do at least three separate data collcetions: a survey of emergency vehicle appearancews ar forbes and morewood, a survey of students in dorms, and getting dat from official records (of pittsburgh police, pitt campus police, and/or cmu campus police). this sounds like an awful lot to do. PLease revise and refine, and focus on a more feasible amount of work, for I2. [don't scale it down too much, but just enough so it looks like you could actualy accomplish it]

C. references - none 0/10

TOTAL 77/10

Project Proposal: Political Attitudes and Major of Carnegie Mellon Students

Abhi Jain, Yeungjun Lee, Movses Musaelian, Matt Vela

I. Interest

It's always been interesting to me the relationship between the major that students pursue in college and their political philosophy. It would be interesting to know if certain areas in academia draw people with certain political leanings or if such a differentiation doesn't exist. For example, will the stereotype hold that students studying art or music are more left wing when it comes to political and social issues? Breaking or reinforcing long thought stereotypes can be a very interesting task. Which major has the most relatively right wing students and what can be said about that subject and its relationship to such politics? The information that will be obtained from such a survey won't necessarily be the most applicable; however, it will be an interesting expose of Carnegie Mellon students from which all of us can learn a bit more about the community in which we study and live in. Possibly the results from such a survey could be published in the school newspaper. In all, we view this survey as a diagnostic of our community, similar to how several polls are conducted on the US population regarding certain issues that in all serve as a diagnostic of how people think and the relationships that exist.

II. Questions

The most important question that we will want to study is if there is a distinguishable relationship between one's primary major and political philosophy. The questions that we pose to students will try to gauge their political philosophy, but also social views. For example, questions regarding size of government, views on abortion, traditional marriage, etc. Hence, another question may arise from this regarding social views and political philosophy and how well they run parallel, which we assume will be rather often. Given the fact that many students have double majors and minors in different fields, we will focus on the given student's primary major. While we will only test our school community, the bigger question at hand is if students with certain views both politically and socially are more probable to choose certain majors and what can be said about those areas of study in relationship with the prevalent political/social view. In addition to noting the primary major, it

will be important to also take heed of other variables that may exist in influencing one's views for example, where one is from, religion, sex, and age. All of this will have to be recorded as well.

III. Research

While many stereotypes regarding this question exist, not much tangible research has been done. However, there was this notable research done at University of Minnesota regarding this exact question. The results from this survey concluded that there wasn't a significant relationship between one's university major and social views, however a tangible relationship existed between one's chosen university major and economic views. It will be very interesting to compare the results from the CMU community to this university's community and see if similar relationships exist. The paper also references some other papers that researched this question, which will add nicely to background with which our results can be compared.

"Choice of Major and Political Attitudes: A Study of University of Minnesota Students", Spring 2010, (Rachel Gage, Jennifer Zick, Kaylie Tully, and Elaina Simon), Department of Psychology, University of Minnesota. Published in University of Minnesota Undergraduate Journal of Psychology (Sentience).
http://www.psych.umn.edu/sentience/files/Gage_2010.pdf

Found by Movses.

Project Proposal: Frequency of Emergency Vehicles on Forbes and Morewood

Abhi Jain, Yeungjun Lee, Movses Musaelian, Matt Vela

I. Interest

If it isn't already apparent, there are quite a few emergency vehicles that pass down Forbes and Morewood on a daily basis. For students that live in Morewood Gardens, this can seem like quite a nuisance, especially for those that live in the towers facing the street. But can the frequency of these emergency response vehicles be attributed to the sheer number of emergencies within the Oakland area, or is the frequency of emergency vehicles merely a function of our own overestimation, as what we may believe to be two to three emergency vehicles a day are in fact the only emergency vehicles serving the Pittsburgh area. This survey hopes to measure the frequency of emergency vehicles passing down Forbes and Morewood while correlating their passage to the number of emergencies in Pittsburgh, and the proximity of those emergencies to Morewood Gardens.

II. Questions

One of the more important questions that will be asked is if there is a correlation between the frequency of emergency vehicles that pass by Forbes and Morewood and the number of emergencies that occur in the Oakland area. If there is a correlation, then this would explain the frequency of emergency vehicles. However, if it is found that the frequency of the emergency vehicles is attributed to just the unfortunate proximity of Morewood Gardens to Forbes and Morewood, then the survey will attempt to conclude that the perceived frequency of emergency vehicles is merely a function of dorm residents' annoyance in being exposed to these daily noise pollutants.

III. Research

Currently, there has no study been conducted correlating the number of emergency vehicles passing through Forbes Ave. to local emergencies and the annoyance levels of Morewood Gardens dorm residents. This is an original survey that will be conducted in various stages, initially beginning with the measure of average emergency vehicles that pass by Forbes and Morewood, then continuing with a survey of dorm residents asking for their estimation of the number of emergency vehicles that pass by in a day. Finally, information regarding the number of emergencies that occur on average in the Oakland area would need to be acquired so that inference can be produced that correlates the frequencies of emergency vehicles to local emergencies and the perceived frequency of emergency response vehicles.

Written by Matt.