

POL 168: Latin@ Politics

Fall 2009

Problem Set 2: Analysis of Public Opinion Data

For this assignment, I want you to do some secondary analysis of survey data I have compiled for you. Note, this assignment does not require the computation of any statistic, though you may speculate on what kind of further analysis you would like to have, if you had access to the data (by the way, you do have access to this data!). This assignment is due Thursday, Nov. 19.

The assignment objective is straightforward: you are to play the role of “the professor” or an “analyst.” Posted on the website is a PowerPoint slide set I created containing slides of data I analyzed from the 2006 Pew Survey on Religion and Public Life. This survey sampled 4016 Latino respondents, mostly during October, 2006. I have presented analysis of four main items: gay marriage attitudes, abortion attitudes, religiosity and the role of the church in politics, and party affiliation.

Your task is this:

1. Provide a written analysis of the major take-away points of each slide (refer to how I have interpreted survey data during our class sessions). In this analysis, discuss (as I do in lectures), the larger implications of the data before you. Are there major differences across subgroups in the analysis? Are there no differences? How might what you observe in the data bear on real world politics/elections? I am not looking for fluff answers; I'm looking for serious analysis. I would speculate that proper analysis of each data slide would require anywhere from 1 to 3 paragraphs (probably closer to 1 but it is up to you).
2. Provide an overall summary and synthesis of the major conclusions you draw from the full analysis of the data presented to you. What are the big themes? What big picture “take-home” points are found in these data? Examples of big picture things would be: if Latinos will comprise a larger sector of the electorate, what implications do these attitudes have for social policy?
3. FINALLY for up to 5 percent bonus points (i.e. if you are graded at 87 percent for items 1 and 2, you would get 92 *if you get the full 5 percent*), resubmit my PowerPoint to me but include slides you create containing your analysis of the data (i.e. in a format similar to how I present survey data). For full bonus points, the slides should be simple BUT informative. Imagine how you would use them if I called you up before the class to teach! In this component, feel free to reorganize slides how you see fit.