

# Data Analysis Practicum

## Progress Report 1

Due 21 February 2019 by 2:00pm.

It's time to check in with your progress on analyzing the Russian troll tweet dataset. This progress report is meant to help you focus your energies onto a manageable research project for this class. I want the following from each project team, be that team an individual student or a small group:

1. **Question:** In about 2-4 paragraphs, explain the question you would like to investigate with these data. In addition to clearly stating your question, at least one paragraph should be devoted to your rationale for asking this question—why this is a topic you consider interesting and worth investigating. The remaining paragraph(s) should be devoted to what you hope to learn by investigating this question, both immediately (what can the data tell you) and ultimately (how can answers to this question affect your understanding more broadly).
2. **Proposal:** In about 1-2 pages, explain how you intend to use the data to address the question you have posed. Your job here is to operationalize the general topic into something analytically tractable with the available data (and potentially with whatever other data you might collect yourself: e.g. Google search trends, non-troll tweet samples, et cetera). You do not need to propose the exact methods you'll want to use (see #4), but you should have a sense of what you want to show with your data. Be as specific as you can—talk about how you will use modeling, estimation, inference, et cetera to address your question.
3. **Exploration:** In about 1-2 pages, provide early exploratory results from the data that pertain to your question and/or your proposal. If you're interested in the content of the Russian troll tweets, can you say or show anything about general patterns in that content (c.f. the word clouds shown in class)? If you're interested in time modeling, can you say or show anything about the times of tweets you're interested in? If you're interested in differences between the groups identified by Linvill & Warren, can you say or show anything about patterning within and between groups? What you report here may or may not be elements you'd want to include in a final report—but they should help me understand how you're starting to pursue your question with these data.
4. **Direction:** In about 2-4 paragraphs, discuss your plan for analyzing these data. What do you already know how to do? What methods do you feel you'll need to learn more about in order to do the analysis you'd like. (Hint: if you already know how to do all the analyses you're interested in doing, you should be pushing yourself to ask more challenging questions with these data.) What additional materials (data or methods) will you need to obtain to do the analyses you want? How do you plan to obtain those additional materials—or if you do't know how to obtain them, how do you plan to learn more about how to obtain them?

After your progress reports have been submitted, I'll be meeting with each team individually to discuss their project in more depth, during the 1-2 weeks following their submission.