

**FRANK BATTEN SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC POLICY
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA**

**RESEARCH METHODS AND DATA ANALYSIS I
PPOL 6150**

MIDTERM EXAM GRADING

Craig Volden
volden@virginia.edu

Office hours: Weds. 3:00-4:00 (or by appt.)
203 Garrett Hall

This assignment is out of 100 points.

The point break-down is as follows:

(30 points) Overall assessment of the report's strengths and weaknesses. Does it come together as a coherent whole, informing the reader about the relative lawmaking activities of men and women in Congress? Writing in a clear and compelling manner is important throughout the entire report. Points may also be deducted for reports that exceed the specified page length, and of course for technically wrong statistical analyses.

(5 points) Introduction: Does the report have a proper introduction with all significant elements?

(15 points) The data: Are the data adequately described, including variables used later in the report? Are the proper calculations made to assess difference in means and proportions between men and women in each Congress for the variables of laws produced and success rates (with ttest and ptest, as appropriate)? Are the implications of those differences clear?

(10 points) Other gender differences: Are the differences (or lack of differences) between men and women in Congress on at least three variables described and analyzed? Are differences across the two Congresses in the study discussed adequately?

(15 points) Analysis: Does the report adequately explore whether the gender differences found in the above section help explain the differences in lawmaking among men and women across these two Congresses? Should involve a logical assessment of those differences, as well as conditional probabilities and subsetting the data. Once again, differences should be judged in their statistical significance. Matched pairs could be

used here, but if used need to be properly justified and used correctly (no points off for excluding or attempting and failing). Does an overall understanding of the gender differences in Congress emerge from this analysis?

(5 points) Caveats and concerns: Are errors or limitations of the data adequately discussed, especially as they pertain to the findings in the analysis section? Are other plausibly important factors explored and discussed?

(5 points) Summary: Based on the introduction and the summary, would a casual but informed reader be able to understand the main analysis and content of the report? Is it written in a clear and compelling manner?

(15 points) Appendices:

A. Is the descriptive statistics table adequately constructed and correct?

B. Is the *Stata* do-file complete, accessible, and correct? Do all of the findings in the report follow clearly from the .do file? Are there any significant flaws that led to problematic analyses and findings?