

Prompt for Preelection Report Assignment

17.263: American Elections
Professor Devin Caughey

Your preelection report should be **5–8 double-spaced pages** and should describe the “state of the race” as it stands a few weeks before the election. It should include the following categories of **information** (at least):

- the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the constituency (i.e., the state/district)
- the partisan lean and recent electoral history of the constituency
- the major candidates in the race and their routes to the nomination.

In addition, the report should include **predictions** of two outcomes:

1. the winning candidate, plus the probability you assign to his/her victory (0–100%)
2. this candidate’s vote share margin over the runner-up, plus the predictive interval that you are 50% confident the margin will fall in.

To give a hypothetical example:

1. Winner: Candidate A (probability: 98%)
2. Margin: 3.9% (predictive interval: 2.6–5.2%)

Please also give a brief explanation of the reasoning behind your prediction. Finally, your report should be cited appropriately and should rely on at least **5 distinct sources**; each website (not webpage), book, or periodical counts as 1 source. All sources should be listed in the bibliography. (For more information on citations, see the [Chicago Manual of Style](#).)

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17.263 American Elections
Fall 2020

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