

****Submit to DropBox by Saturday night!****

Manual Annotation homework

In this homework you will be labeling congressional bill titles for primary subtopic and topic using the Policy Agendas topic system described in the Baumgartner et al article.

Codebook: <http://www.comparativeagendas.net/pages/master-codebook>

As described in the article. the codebook does not provide a complete list of keywords that you can simply search. It offers examples for each topic and subtopic.

- Choose 1 group of bills from the Excel sheet to label (A,B,C,D or E); assign one subtopic per bill based on your judgment about a bill's primary purpose.
- **Re-name the file with "caplabels-your last name.csv" (all lowercase)**
- Delete all of the cases except the ones you label. Save it!

Coding instructions (these are Policy Agendas conventions)

- Code for the issue, not the program. Granted this isn't always easy. For example, a bill to tax tobacco products should probably be coded as a health bill because a central goal of the tax is to discourage consumption. A college loan program for veterans is about higher education. The examples in the codebook are designed to help in ambiguous cases.
- If you think that a bill equally addresses more than one major topic, assign the lowest number (e.g. 7 versus 21)
- If a bill equally addresses more than one subtopic within a topic, go with 00 (e.g. 709 and 710 = 700)
- Anything to do with native Americans or U.S. territories goes into subtopics 2102 and 2105 respectively

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Do your best work but **don't spend more than a couple of hours on this**. We will be comparing your work to the 'gold standard' as well as to your colleagues!