

Short Paper Assignment 1

The short paper assignment for this class will be due on Oct. 23th. The paper should be 3-4 pages in length (assuming double spacing with 12 point font). You should select one of topics listed below and try to answer the following questions:

- What are the authors trying to say?
- What evidence do the authors use to justify their point?
- Is the evidence they present convincing (why or why not?)
- What evidence would you like to see?

You don't necessarily have to answer all of these questions, and you shouldn't set up your paper as four parts. For the assignment, you may choose one of the following topics (based on the course readings)

- Canes-Wrone, Brady, and Cogan's argument that legislators gain votes by moving towards the political center
- Shott's argument that racial gerrymandering does not lead to worse substantive representation for black voters
- Alvarez and Savings' argument that members of prestige committees are able to secure more pork for their districts
- Anzia and Berry's argument that female legislators are more effective

Note that you don't have to address everything in a given reading--you should focus on the main component of the authors' argument (whatever you interpret that to be).