

What I did as an ACSC Community Development Fellow

Guns as a Policy Problem

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Background

- Prof. Arunkumar Sharma developed a module on gun violence for his class at Wagner College.
- Prof. Jaye Nias shared a template for module design that she used for her classes at Spelman College.
- I am a proponent of a protocol for teaching empirical research developed by Project TIER.
- I teach research methods to political science undergrads at Morehouse College.



Three Social Justice Ideas

Learning Outcomes

Social Justice Competencies

1. Use data analysis to critique policy alternatives (including the status quo).
2. Use data analysis to make a positive case for change.

Technical Competencies

1. Use conditional logic to create subsets of data.
2. Create appropriate visualizations of a single variable.
3. Calculate appropriate measures of central tendency.

What's in the Module?

Pre-Lab Work

1. **Listen** to a radio interview with Carol Anderson about the connections between the second amendment and slavery.
2. **Read** a research article about the relationship between racial resentment and white attitudes towards gun control.
3. **Explore** online resources about various policy alternatives relating to guns.
4. **Think** about the data that is necessary to critique or support a policy alternative.

In the Lab

1. Choose the data that suits their needs.
2. Create a data appendix to describe that data.
3. Use subsets, descriptive statistics, and univariate plots to make an argument.

Concluding Thoughts

Where does it fit?

- Data analysis course: relatively early, descriptive statistics
- Research Methods course: somewhere in the middle; providing evidence for claims
- Substantive course: potentially a major summative assessment



How does it work?

TBD possibly this summer or in the fall.