Instructions for the Second Research Paper

This handout is intended to provide some specifics as to how to write the second short research paper. If you have any questions regarding format or writing style, please raise these in class or during office hours. The due is on April 28, 3pm. You may deliver your paper to my office or leave it in my mail box at the department office. I will not accept papers emailed to me. No late papers will be accepted. First, here are some basics:

1. The paper should be no longer than 5 pages, typed, and double-spaced (excluding tables, graphics, and bibliography).

2. The font size must be 12.

3. The paper should have a title page which states the title of the paper, the date, your name and PSCI4120.

4. The data set required for your research project is American National Election Study (ANES) in 2008.

5. Mass behavior to be explained in this project must be related to political participation in the 2008 presidential election.

6. The paper should be written to follow the citation rules in American Political Science Review or American Journal of Political Science.

7. Keep a copy of the paper, as well as the notes which you used as you worked on it, in case the paper is lost or I have questions regarding your work.

8. Plagiarism is prohibited and will result in your failing the course! Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, using quotes from other authors without attributing the source; expressing an idea as your own when it has been introduced by another author; changing only a few words in a quote taken from another text.

9. Your grade will be based on writing style, the scope and structure of the paper, as well as the evidence and conclusions provided in the text.

10. Attach your SPSS commands at the end of the paper.

Second, the structure of your paper should follow the pattern below. Each section should begin with an appropriate subheading.
• **Research Question and Hypothesis**: What type of political participation, specifically, are you examining in this paper? What is the specific explanation that accounts for the variation in political participation? What is a logic behind your explanation?

• **Presentation of Results**: Describe what survey questions or variables you use for your analysis. Provide descriptive statistics. Make your own cross tabulation table (i.e., do not cut and paste SPSS output into your paper). Discuss the evidence which is central to your explanation. Does your evidence support your explanation?