

Political Science 083T First Year Seminar  
Prof. Baumgartner  
Home work due on Monday Dec 8, 2008

Your assignment: Add a column of data to a spreadsheet based on lexis-nexis search of newspaper data for one of the following sets of keywords, make a graph showing years along the bottom and the two data series as lines, as in the example at the bottom of this assignment.

Steps to follow to make this happen:

1) Do the search through Lexis Nexis

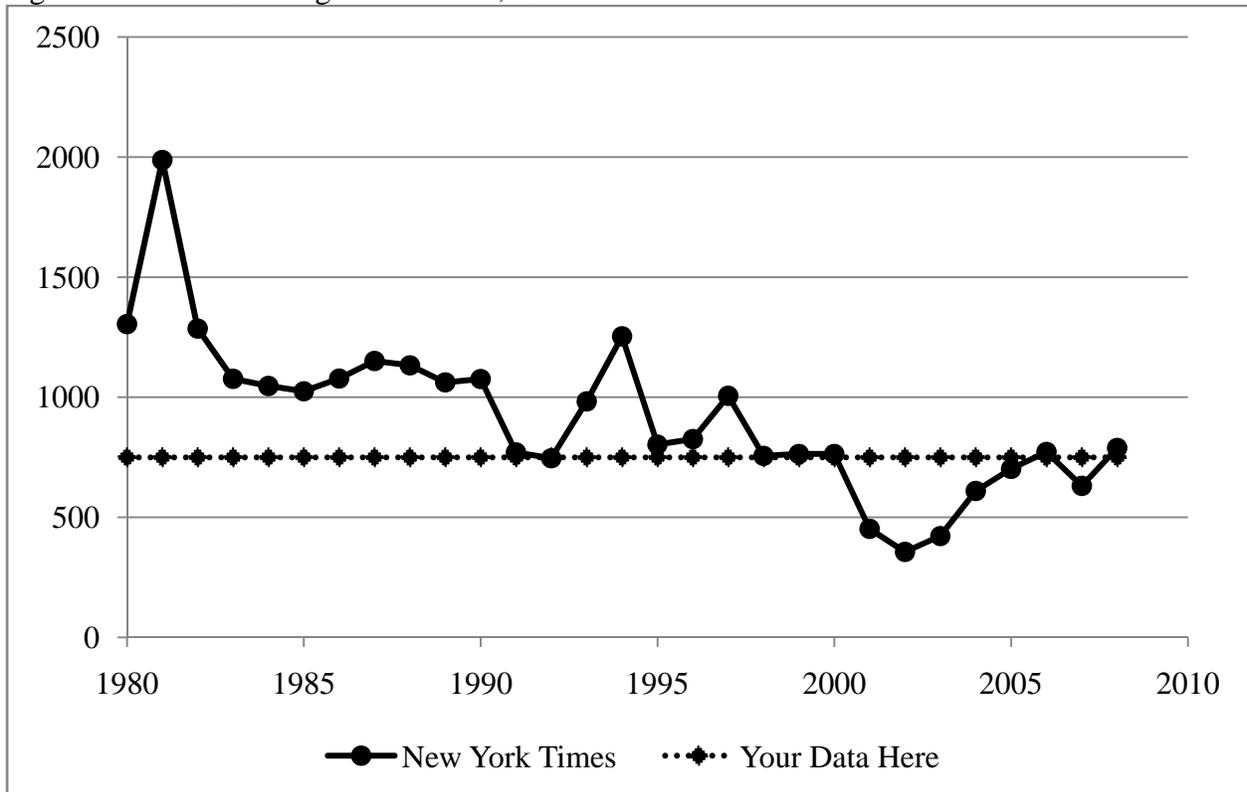
- a) Lexis-Nexis Academic
- b) Sources
- c) News
- d) Country: United States
- e) Newspapers (you should see 565 sources)
- f) Pick your newspaper (Note: pick a major paper, not a minor one. Major means form one of the biggest 20 cities in the US, no small towns accepted. Reason: some of the newspapers aren't available very far back in time, or not consistently included in Lexis-Nexis every year.)
- g) Click OK and it should open up a search window
- h) Enter your search terms: inflation AND price AND ("United States" OR US)
- i) Select "Date is between..." and enter years, starting w/ Jan 1 2008 to current date, then Jan 1 2007 to Dec 31 2007, and back in time
- j) This should go very quickly as all you have to do is get the results, hit the "back" button, and change the years.
- k) Open your spreadsheet and have it open on your screen so you can see both the spreadsheet and the Lexis-Nexis window
- l) Enter the data one year at a time as you do the search

2) As you add data to your spreadsheet, the figure should automatically update. Make sure you use the handy spreadsheet from the class web page called "Baumgartner\_graphing\_assignment.xlsx"

3) Cut and paste this graph into Word.

- a) Give it a title (above), such as: "Figure 1. Media Attention to Unemployment, 19xx to 20xx."
- b) Give it a note (below), such as: "Note: Data from Lexis-Nexis Academic. Searches were conducted using the keyword phrase [inflation AND rate AND price AND ("United States" OR US)]. Search conducted December xx, 2008."
- c) Then write a paragraph starting "Figure 1 shows..." and describe what you found. Do the media sources correspond? Write a paragraph about the trends in the graph.

Figure 1. Media Coverage of Inflation, 1980–2008.



Note: Data from Lexis-Nexis Academic. Searches were conducted using the keyword phrase [inflation AND rate AND price AND (“United States” OR US)]. Search conducted December 2, 2008. Data for 2008 cover the period from January 1 to December 1.

Figure 1 shows that attention to inflation in the *New York Times* has generally declined from historical levels in the early 1980s. [Now say something about your other newspaper.]