

**PLSC 497: Social Movements and Public Policy**  
**Professors Baumgartner and McCarthy, Spring 2009**

**First Assignment: Observation Research Report**

1. Use the assembled observation data that includes the combined observations of all class members as the data for your research report. Use the “Suggestions for Preparing Research Reports” Guidelines.
2. Write up the research report to reflect exactly how the observations were accomplished and by whom. You will want to include as much detail as possible on who the observers were, where they observed and the like.
3. Make sure to explain how you and the other observers measured the “size of a with.”
4. Read the McPhail paper that we have provided to you. There he describes past research on the distribution of “withs” that can be expected to be found in public places. Use the paper to develop an expectation of your own about what the distribution of “withs” should look like in our observation study—this is your hypothesis.
5. Make sure to create a table to display the data we have collected.
6. In your results section you should describe the pattern of results shown in your table, and then assess whether that pattern supported your hypothesis.
7. Don’t forget to write a summary at the end. Usually research papers include Abstracts, which are, however, usually written after the rest of the paper is completed. The summary should be no more than five sentences that include the highlights of what is included in the research report. It is NOT another conclusion.
8. Good Luck!