Student:

Charlie

Topic:

How first time voters will make the decision of who to vote for in the 2013 Federal election

What is your name? What was your research question?

Hi, I’m Charlie and for my Research Project I looked into the question investigate how first time voters will make the decision of who to vote for in the 2013 Federal election.

Where did your information mainly come from?

I used a variety of sources, first stuff was really a lot of reading, you know, newspapers, scholarly articles, things of that variety and then after that, once I had some knowledge, I went into doing my own research, which was a survey. I got a number of satirical responses from a couple of friends that weren’t very helpful, but I think sample size was an issue, from the software I used you could only get up to 100 responses so it was hard to see if I could validate my findings with a limited sample size. Yeah, I had 1 interview by email correspondence but ended up not using it too much for my outcome but it was more a guiding tool of how to go about the research that I later did.

How did you present your research outcome?

I did my outcome in the format of a written report and I targeted that towards an audience of pastoral students of a similar age to me and I thought that through targeted…targeting it to that audience it would be something that hopefully it would be something that I could show to my peers and they’d have a bit of interest in. Well I really looked at it from two aspects how they vote and why they vote so it was, I found that the key factors for the younger demographic were education, came first and then it was health care, was very important and then cost of living was ranked third and when that was compared against the entire demographic which was done through the Advertiser survey they found that the cost of living was ranked first, so it was…saw that, you know, to young people cost of living isn’t as much of an issue, they’re more focused on side issues like education and health care.

What challenges came up whilst undertaking the Research Project?

I had a bit of trouble, just first up, I tried to do a very broad analysis and tried to look at too many different factors, and ended up doing it very shallowly and not very well so then I kind of redefined it really specifically into how voters vote, not necessarily what they vote for and that allowed me to get some findings that are a lot more useful and substantive. I’d probably even, you know, get even more precise, I might, you know, pick one specific factor and see, you know, why people vote for that I think there is a lot of holistic research out there but it’s the specific research I think that you can glean a lot more, a lot more from because you get a lot more authoritative findings.

What would you say to students about to start their Research Project?

It’s really important when you’re developing your question to get something that both interests you and something that’s manageable, you know, don’t something , don’t do something that’s unachievable and also do something that really kind of tests you out and takes you a little bit out of your comfort zone, you know if you, you know, have made a long board before I probably wouldn’t say do that again, you know, do something you haven’t done before , it’s an opportunity to do something different in a school environment on school time.

How did your Research Project prepare you for what you are doing now?

The Research Project has been helpful in developing my literacy skills so writing and referencing ‘cause my outcome was in that written report format and also it’s given me a lot of confidence in doing my own research not just relying on the research of others to, you know, make findings. Because it’s such a large project it really does make you become disciplined in how you organise your work and how you keep everything together so yeah it was good to reinforce, you know, the things they’ve been telling you in school, you know, stay organized and do everything on time.