Research Question:
My research question asks: How does voter turnout and political participation among Native Americans differ across the states of South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin? This research question is important for a political scientist to investigate because it relates to minority rights issues. For example, on page 44, Lowi et al. discuss… The scholarly literature also emphasizes the need for political scientists to understand minority rights issues because…(scholarly source citations). Second, this question will help political scientists understand more about how voter turnout rates vary among certain ethnic and racial groups, as discussed by Lowi et al. on page… and by …authors in their study (scholarly source citation). This question also highlights the role of federalism, which is defined by Lowi et al. as…. on page…. Finally, this question is relevant to contemporary debates about voter identification laws because … which is also discussed by Lowi et al. on page…

Methodology and Limitations:
To address this question a political scientist should take an “empirical” approach, which Lowi et al. define as… on page… The researcher should avoid claims based solely or mostly on opinion because… The researcher should also be aware of his/her own opinion about the topic because… First, the researcher may want to collect public opinion polling data among Native American communities that live across these states to better understand how Native Americans perceive their own levels of political activity. Specifically, survey questions that poll individuals regarding their participation in social and political movements, campaigns, voting, and running for office would be a good source of evidence. A second source of data would be the voter turnout rates of Native Americans that live across these states in order to determine how active these communities are in the specific realm of voting. Fugikawa (2011) points out that this data… A third method would be comparing the sizes of the Native American populations across these states to better understand whether larger communities facilitate more political participation and opportunities to run for elected office. The chart on page…in Lowi et al. uses a similar method by...

There are several limitations to these methods. Limitations are important to discuss because… First, it may be difficult to determine the precise sizes of Native American communities across these states given that some Native Americans may not self-identify as members of the group while others with very distant heritage may claim that identity (Green 2007). The population estimates are imperfect and one obstacle is differentiating between Native Americans who live in self-governed “reservations” and those who do not. Another limitation that could arise comes with the task of trying to compare voter turnout rates across states that lack specific demographic data regarding their Native American communities. Finally, the researcher will be challenged by choosing indicators of political participation that fully reflect the political activities of Native Americans. For example, choosing to focus only on membership in political and social organizations could understate Native American participation in protests and grassroots campaigns. Some communities may be more active in environmental organizations and movements while others may be more active in running for elected office, depending on the location and the issues that are salient to that specific group (Fugikawa 2011).

It may be interesting and useful to examine how Native American commenters have discussed this issue in the media. For this reason, opinion pieces authored by Native Americans on websites like Lakota People’s Law Project could be referenced to better understand… However, the researcher must keep in mind that this type of source… Similarly, opinion pieces by non-Native Americans, like McCartney’s (2014) editorial in the Washington Post, could be useful in order to explore… Again, caution must be exercised by the researcher in using this type of source because…
Annotated Bibliography:  

The author is a visiting Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies and Gender & Women’s Studies at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Her research and teaching focuses on race, class, gender, and sexuality in U.S. culture with a focus on Asian American and American Indian ethnicity. She earned her doctoral degree in American Studies and Ethnicity from the University of Southern California in 2011 and was a Chancellors’ Postdocral Fellow in Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign from 2011-2012. This book provides a comparative analysis of two U.S. programs run by (1) the War Relocation Authority, created in 1943 to encourage Japanese American camp residents to leave the camps during the resettlement period, and (2) the Bureau of Indian Affairs Voluntary Relocation Program, created in 1958 to persuade Native Americans to move to distant cities during the much longer urban relocation era. The book is a good scholarly source providing valid empirical evidence obtained from archival government documents and agency propaganda to investigate how government agencies used dispersal of communities and “self-sufficient citizen” propaganda in an attempt to assimilate each group in specific ways. This scholarly book also supports its arguments with evidence from an analysis of contemporary literature and film to explore the long-term effects of displacement and strategies for survival. The book provides useful background information on the history of U.S. government resettlement of Native Americans across different states, including the states covered in my research question. The book will also be useful for understanding how the history of displacement and actions by the U.S. government toward Native Americans has shaped contemporary levels of voting and political participation among these communities.


At the time of publication, the author was a third-year law student at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. She currently practices law in Texas and is certified by the State Bar of Texas. According to Google Scholar, this article has been cited by five distinct scholarly studies, which suggests it is credible despite the lack of additional publications by the author. Also supporting the credibility of the scholarly source is the fact that American Indian Law Review uses an independent, double-blind peer review process in which the identities of the reviewers and authors remain anonymous. According to the journal’s website, reviewers are scholars and experts in the field of federal Indian law and indigenous peoples’ issues. The article is useful for defining who counts as “Native American” and therefore helps clarify the complexity of identifying Native Americans, which is one of the methodological limitations of this research project. Specifically, the study argues that Native Americans and African Americans have been similarly categorized in American history by the amount of blood content from the group in question and explores the effects of these classifications. The argument is supported using valid empirical evidence obtained from…

(3) Assignment will continue with an additional 3-4 scholarly source citations and annotations as well as 1-2 opinion piece citations and annotations