

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DATA 420 — Spring 2024

Reading check #4

– Silver: 2020 preface

Feb. 1, 2024

1. True or false: the coronavirus was less a failure of a prediction and more a failure to act upon expert guidance. \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Suppose a political poll says that 71.4% of voters will vote for candidate A, and 28.6% of voters will vote for candidate B. The margin of error on these polls is  $\pm 4\%$ . How sure should we be that candidate A will win?
  - we should have near 100% certainty that A will win
  - we should be more confident that A will win than B will win, but either one is still very possible
  - it's basically a coin flip
  
3. Suppose a political forecast gives candidate A a 71.4% chance of winning, and candidate B a 28.6% chance of winning. How sure should we be that candidate A will win?
  - we should have near 100% certainty that A will win
  - we should be more confident that A will win than B will win, but either one is still very possible
  - it's basically a coin flip
  
4. What was the most important factor about Silver's FiveThirtyEight model that gave Donald Trump a much higher chance of winning in 2016 than nearly any other model of the election?

5. What are the two types of cognition Daniel Kahneman describes in his 2011 book?

Cognition System 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Cognition System 2: \_\_\_\_\_

6. The collective judgment of a group of people (or “the wisdom of crowds”) according to James Surowiecki, thrives when which of the following features are present in the situation? (Check **all** that apply.)

- Strong opinions.** People in the group are passionate about their point of view.
- Diversity.** People in the group have a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and skill sets.
- Independence.** People in the group are able to share ideas and dissent openly, without fear of reprisal.
- High stakes.** The decision that the group is going to reach has great consequences for the individuals in the group.