HYPOTHESES AND RATIONALES

Rationale
- Test hypothesis
- Find difference
- Use RATIONALE to EXPLAIN the difference we see
  - The spark plug that drives the difference
  - Question: Is it the RIGHT RATIONALE?

HOW TO FIND OUT
- Find THIRD VARIABLE
  - CAPTURES rationale
  - DOES DIFFERENCE PERSIST
  - At each level of 3rd variable

Two Examples
- ONE OUTCOME: Q39

In general, do you feel that the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?
0 . . . Make less strict
1 . . . Kept as they are now
2 . . . Make more strict
ONE PREDICTOR: Political Orientation

Q. 12 How would you describe your political orientation?
0 … extremely conservative
1 … conservative
2 … somewhat conservative
3 … somewhat liberal
4 … liberal
5 … extremely liberal

To simplify

Q. 12 How would you describe your political orientation?
0 … extremely conservative
1 … conservative
2 … somewhat conservative
3 … somewhat liberal
4 … liberal
5 … extremely liberal

ALL

Q39 firearm laws * Q12LIB q12 liberaldummy Crosstabulation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>00 CON</th>
<th>1.00 LIB</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q39 firearm laws</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>0 made less strict</td>
<td>Count % within Q12LIB q12 liberaldummy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 kept as they are now</td>
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POSSIBLE ENGINE

CONSERVATIVES GENERALLY CARE MORE ABOUT RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS
IT IS BECAUSE THEY CARE MORE THAT THEY DO NOT WANT STRICTER GUN LAWS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISAGREE</th>
<th>AGREE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q. 49</td>
<td>I think that the right of citizens to arm themselves is an important right.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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LOGICS

A
- CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION to STRICTER GUN LAWS DRIVEN BY GUN RIGHTS CONCERNS
  - Therefore should be NO LIB-CON difference if we look ONLY at those concerned with gun rights

B
- CON-LIB DIFFERENCE SHOULD SHOW UP ONLY when looking at those concerned with gun rights

HOW DO WE CONTROL?

- LOOK SEPARATELY AT
  - Those who do NOT care about gun rights
  - Those who DO care about gun rights

DISAGREE (Q49)
RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS NOT IMPORTANT

DISAGREE (Q49)
RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS NOT IMPORTANT

Q39 firearm laws * Q12LIB q12 liberaldummy Crosstabulation

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<tr>
<td>1: kept as they are</td>
<td>Count</td>
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<td>27</td>
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**Group Question**

Has the rationale been supported?
POLITICAL ORIENTATION It has been proposed that the reason students in this class who are politically conservative are less likely to favor stricter gun laws is because they care more about gun rights than liberal students. This rationale suggests either (a) that the impact of political orientation on wanting stricter gun laws should appear only for those students who think gun rights are important, or (b) the impact of political orientation should go away when we focus only on those thinking gun rights important. What do the data say about the idea?

What important questions remain for you about the relationships between these three variables?