Diagramming Gay’s Argument

**Question:** Does a constituent’s ability to identify racially with her MC affect her perceptions of that legislator & of Congress as an institution?

“Race as a Basis for Political Trust”

Gap in literature: no study of impact of black MC on constituents’ perception of government

Why is it important to study this? (previous literature)

What is the theory for how race affects perception of government?

- Bianco (1994): importance of trust, shared values
  - Race is a “heuristic”
- Race may imply greater accessibility of government
Diagramming Gay’s Argument

“Data, Measures, and Methodological Issues”

Describe data: what is the data source, who is included in it (how many of what kind of people?)

Describe constructs, measures, and hypotheses

For DV and for key IV’s:
Differentiate between the concept & the measure; explain and justify hypotheses

Example: The Dependent Variable
- Big Construct: How do constituents’ feel about their MC and the quality of representation they provide?
- Refine construct through Bianco’s work: sense of trust
  - Measure: 4 survey items (p. 719)

Justify control variables
Note discussion of control variables in last paragraph:
Need to account for “spurious correlations”:
Control for factors that may affect DV, and that differ between “treatment” and “control” group
Diagramming Gay’s Argument

“Descriptive Representation and the Member- Constituent Relationship”

Start with a simple crosstab of key IV and DV’s:
Discuss results of crosstab very specifically first (1st paragraph)
Then broaden to discuss its meaning (2nd and 3rd p.)

Specify models and hypotheses more specifically

In discussing results, discuss 3 things:
1. Sign of the relationship between IV and DV (pos/neg)
2. Magnitude (how large are the effects?)
3. Meaning: What does this mean, substantively?