ASSIGNMENT: CREATE A BAR GRAPH ON VOTER TURNOUT DATA!

Voter turnout rates in 2010*

State	2010	U.S. rank	Percentage-point change from 2008	Percentage-point change from 2006
Illinois	41.8%	31	-21.4	+1.6
Indiana	37.3%	44	-22.0	+0.7
Iowa	50.3%	8	-19.4	+2.2
Kansas	42.0%	30	-20.0	-1.6
Michigan	44.3%	21	-24.1	-7.8
Minnesota	55.5%	1	-22.2	-4.6
Nebraska	38.4%	41	-25.0	-9.2
North Dakota	48.1%	12	-16.2	+3.2
Ohio	44.6%	20	-20.0	-4.9
South Dakota	52.8%	4	-11.3	-6.0
Wisconsin	51.7%	7	-20.4	-2.0
United States	*40.9%*	—	*-20.7*	*+0.5*

** Turnout rate is the number of votes cast for highest office divided by the total voting-eligible population.*

Source: George Mason University United States Elections Project

- **Directions**: Using the data (left), create a bar graph in Excel or a similar program, showing the voter turnout percentages for each state listed in 2006, 2008, and 2010.
- Then, insert the graph into a word processing document and answer these questions:
  - 1) Using the bar graph, which three states showed the greatest fluctuations in voter turnout from 2006-2010. Hypothesize why.
  - 2) Why did voter turnout appear to be higher in most states in 2008? Which populations likely went to polls more? Hypothesize!
  - 3) Which three states showed the lowest voter turnout in 2010? Which populations in these state are likely to influence the lower voter turnout rates? Hypothesize!
  - 4) Based on trends reflected in the graph, predict whether voter turnout will be higher or lower in the 2012 election. Explain.
  - 5) Why may a bar graph be more helpful in examining voter turnout data than the chart (left)? Explain.

http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/content/minnesota-leads-nation-voter-turnout