The Impact of Fracking on Local Politics
By Jacob Hoeflich

Introduction
What is fracking? Why is it worth studying?

Research Questions
- Does fracking cause an increase in political corruption?
- Does fracking cause an increase in political participation?

Operationalizations
- Political Corruption
  - Misuse of public office
  - Private interests prioritized over public interests
  - Misutilization of political resources
- Political Participation
  - Voluntary civic engagement
  - Distinction between formal and informal modes of participation

Hypotheses
- Fracking causes an increase in political corruption
  - Resource Curse
  - Lobbying to buy individual votes
  - Misutilization of political resources in violation of the principle of equality
- Fracking causes an increase in political participation
  - Rational Choice
  - Resource model of political participation
  - Boomtown

Model
- Fracking causes an increase in political corruption, which in turn causes an increase in political participation

Discussion

Political Corruption
- Differences of the Effect of Fracking with Party in Distinct with Without Fracking

Methodological Limitations
- Only one case
- Small sample size
- Voting behavior of specific legislatures not examined
- Time constraints

Conclusion
- Fracking causes an increase in political corruption through lobbying as a legislative subsidy to the Republican Party
- Fracking causes an increase in formal political participation and a decrease in informal political participation
- Political corruption might cause a decrease in formal political participation and a increase in informal political participation

Future Research
- Definition political corruption
- Mechanisms of lobbying as a legislative subsidy
- Causes of participation gap
- Political trust and efficacy

Thank you!