Discussion Questions for 17.951, Political Behavior

Party Identification
- Describe and contrast the *American Voter* (Michigan school) "standing decision" vs. Fiorina/Downs "running tally" paradigms of party identification. How is party identification formed under these alternative views, and does it change? What are the roles of factors like presidential approval or the state of the economy in each model?
- Why does party identification matter?
- How does party identification differ from vote choice, or does it?
- What is macropartisanship? What is the relationship between changes in macropartisanship and the kind of individual-level models of party identification discussed above?
- What are the Green/Palmquist/Schickler critiques of macropartisanship?
- How would each of the theories of party identification or macropartisanship explain the following empirical phenomena: (1) the fact that party identification tends to strengthen over a lifetime (2) the fact that realignments of party identification periodically take place