Instructions: Do the reading, then go through the questions, think about them, referring back to the reading when necessary, and write short answers (ranging between 1-2 sentences and couple paragraphs) for each. (If you feel you addressed one question in an answer to another, feel free just to refer to that.) Turn in your answers on the day the reading is due. You may discuss these questions with others but all answers should be written in your words (though you may use occasional quotes).

To be turned in:

1. What are your overall thoughts?

2. Is it fair to say the McLaughlin Group *may as well have been flipping coins*?

3. How far off was the CIA on estimating the GDP of the USSR? And do you know what GDP is?

4. Do you think that political coverage *frequently accentuates the noise*? If so, what can you do to filter out this noise?

5. As of Fri 8/26, the FiveThirtyEight election page:

   http://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/2016-election-forecast/

   gives Clinton an 81.3% chance, and Trump a 18.7% chance, of winning the presidential election. What does this mean?

6. Is this huge difference in Clinton and Trump's chance of winning compatible with the considerably smaller difference in the popular vote (48.4% for Clinton, 41.6% for Trump, 8.6% for Johnson) given on the same page?

7. Did this chapter give you any more ideas on how to combat our tendency to selectively read data?

Not be turned in: (you don't need to write up, but think about if you have time, and we may discuss in class)

8. Can you evaluate how good a poll or prediction of an election is after the fact?

9. Do you think it's true that our brains always try to find a pattern whether or not there is one?