

Draft of ENTIRE Paper

This assignment is very important. It is a terrible idea to turn in a half-hearted attempt and an even worse idea to turn it in late. Either of these strategies compromises my ability to give you crucial feedback with enough time for you to incorporate that feedback into your presentation and your final paper (a combined 30 percent of your overall grade). I'll be very honest. The quality of your work on this assignment will indicate to me how seriously you have been taking this class and how harshly I should review your final paper. Although your final paper is not technically due until May 13th, you will be very busy preparing your presentation between now and then. The outline below should be used as a guide on how to structure your paper. You don't have to follow this outline exactly, but it will work best for many of you.

I. Introduction & Motivation

Draw on your Prospectus, your speaking notes from previous presentations, and how you plan to convince a live audience to listen to you talk on this topic. Be certain that you have stated your research question clearly. If your topic involves a government program, an important piece of legislation, or some other aspect that the general reader might not be familiar with, make sure you devote some time to explaining those details.

II. Literature Review

You should have a good start on this already, but I expect improvements over Assignment #3. Revisit Assignment #3 if you don't remember the point of reviewing the relevant literature.

III. Economic Model

What is the 'economics' of your topic? Economic theory has something to say on your research question... what is the predicted intuition/answer based on this theory? Where possible, include graphs or equations to describe the underlying economic theory. Graphs and equations should be created using appropriate tools in Word.

IV. Data & Empirical Model

Assignment #5 should be a good starting point for writing this section. Describe your data, provide summary statistics (via Tables and Charts), specify your regression equation or other equation that is the basis for your analysis, and specify your hypotheses to be tested.

V. Results

This section should follow Assignment #6. You may also find it helpful to review Assignment #4 and the extra credit SAT exercise. Be sure to discuss the shortcomings (problems with data, limitations of regression analysis, etc.) of your method of analysis in this section.

VI. Conclusion

Summarize your research question, your findings, and then discuss how your results compare to economic theory and results in the literature. Finally, discuss any public policy implications or other useful/interesting conclusions from your project.

A Few Other Rules:

- 10-page minimum, no maximum, spacing must be 1.5, number your pages, 1-inch margins.
- Include a complete (and accurate) list of references that follow APA style guidelines.
- Spell and grammar check your document. I will stop reading and assign a grade after 3 mistakes.
- Your draft must be turned in with your binder and all previously completed assignments.