

Project Prospectus

This prospectus is your opportunity to tell me what project you have chosen and demonstrate that your research question is both interesting and feasible. Please write no more than **two double-spaced typed pages** to address the following points:

- (1) **Statement of the Nature of the Problem:** What is the issue or problem this research will address? Why is it interesting, significant, and amenable to economic analysis?
- (2) **The Research Question:** What is the question that is the focus of the research?
- (3) **The Literature:** Briefly discuss three major studies in the literature that have a bearing on your chosen research question. Assignment #3 will ask you to conduct a more thorough review of the literature, so your discussion of the literature now can be fairly cursory. On a separate, third page with the heading **References**, provide APA-style citations for the three journal articles or books that you discuss. (Note: you may cite more than three references if you have them, but please only discuss the three references that are most relevant to your research question.)
- (4) **The Research Design:** What theoretical economic model do you think provides a framework for thinking about your research question? Describe what type of data you will need to test a hypothesis based on your research question. Where will you get data for your empirical analysis? Your answer to (3) should help you to answer these questions.

I am asking for a short paper in this assignment, so please do **not** submit a numbered list with answers to the questions above. What you write on (1) and (2) will help me to determine whether your question is interesting and sufficiently specific. Please review pages 14-18 in Greenlaw. Additionally, what you write on (3) and (4) will help me to determine the feasibility of your proposed research project. I realize that you may have difficulty demonstrating feasibility at this early stage, but that is precisely why I am forcing you to address it. There is still time to better focus your research question or even change it entirely if necessary.

Some Important Details:

- It is important that you **double-space** this paper so that there will be room for me to write comments.
- Articles in the popular press (newspapers, magazines, etc.), while potentially useful in your final paper, are not considered a “major study” for the purposes of (3) above. You may cite such items to motivate your research question in (1).
- You must cite sources for the journal articles, books, and proposed data sources. Citations should begin on a new page titled **References** that does **not** count toward the two page limit. See the **APA Style Guide** for the appropriate way to list journal articles, books, and other references (this is posted on my website and also available at <http://library.csus.edu/guides/hall/apapdf.pdf>).
- After your prospectus is returned to you with comments, please place it in a ½-inch three-ring binder. All future assignments will be turned into me in this binder, which must always contain all of your previous assignments with my written comments.