

Assignment #2: Prospectus

The prospectus is a proposal for your research project. It should include the following components:

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 your research?
3. **Research article**
You should have read through at least one research article closely related to your research question before developing your proposal. The more related articles you have read, the more likely the research question will be something interesting and feasible. You should include a brief (one paragraph summary) of the research article(s) that address the same, or a similar research question. The research article must be listed in a peer-reviewed journal (e.g., not a newspaper article or internet posting).
4. **Research design**
The research design is the most important part of the proposal because it explain how you will go about answering your research question. You should address the following in your research design:
 - What is the analytical framework of the model? The research hypothesis should follow from conceptual analysis.
 - In an ideal world, what data would you need to test your hypothesis? What data have you found to test your analysis and what is the source of the data?
 - You don't need to include a detailed explanation of the statistical techniques at this stage, but if you can make use of knowledge of statistics and regression, this will be useful later on.
5. **References**
List all of the references for papers that you plan to use in your paper.

Rough Draft

The rough draft should include the following:

1. Statement of the nature of the problem
2. The research question
3. Research article: reference to at least one article, even if it is not yet summarized.
4. Research design: explain which data you need and where you plan to obtain the data.
5. References: include a list of references using the APA style guide.

Your rough draft will probably be about one to one and one-half pages.

Final Draft

When you submit rough drafts, you will meet with me individually to discuss your research proposal. You should incorporate the feedback you receive and make changes where appropriate. The final draft must should include all of the components mentioned above and should be about three pages.