

Econ 305: Peer Leadership in Economics

Project Outline Assignment

Do not start writing your paper before you outline your paper. Use the outline to organize the overall structure of your paper and to ensure that each section fits logically within the overall framework of the paper. Since we will be reading some research papers as outside readings for the course, you can look to these as a template for how to structure and organize your paper and how to form your citations of others' work. Your outline should have the following structure, with specific details relevant to your project:

I. Introduction

- What is the hypothesis being tested?
- Why is the hypothesis interesting?
- What does economic theory predict about the relationship being tested?
- What are your methods and results? (Briefly)

II. Background/ Literature Review

- What other work has been done on this issue?
- What has been found?
- How does your paper differ from the others?

III. Description of Data

- What data have you been able to obtain? (source, population surveyed, years, sample)
- What special data problems should be noted?
- Summary statistics for key variables (table).

IV. Empirical Framework and Empirical Results (the heart of your paper)

A. Framework

- What is the ideal experiment to test your hypothesis?
- What is the framework you will use to test your hypothesis?
- What are the shortcomings of this framework and how do they impact your paper's conclusion? Are there solutions to these shortcomings?

B. Results

- Tables and charts of your results
- Interpretation of the results and tables
- Problems with the current analysis that you could not solve

V. Conclusions and Summary

- What have you learned?
- What are the policy implications?
- Are there suggestions for future research?

VI. References

There are no explicit restrictions on the number of references you use for your paper, but use good judgment. It is highly unlikely that you will be able to write a quality paper using only one or two sources of information. At a minimum, references should come from at least three different authors and should not be confined to textbooks. Look to economics journals, other disciplines' journals, high-quality/reliable web sites, and newspapers for information.