

Research Paper

EC450
Dr. Zachary Cohle
Quinnipiac University

Directions

Over the course of the semester, each student will write his or her own research paper. This paper is meant to be more of a thesis proposal rather than a full fledged thesis. That is, within this paper, I expect each student to outline a specific issue and make the case as to why it merits further research. Your paper focus on one specific and clearly stated question. For example, you may ask "Does Foreign Aid help a country grow more than FDI?" Within this question, you must clearly define the concepts (i.e. foreign aid, FDI, growth...). You should also be able to define which larger topic area your question fits (i.e. IO, public economics, etc.). By connecting your topic to a specific area of economics, you will be able to analyze the issue while drawing on past economic classes.

Then, you have to carefully look at all the previous work done in the area. For example, you may have a section on how FDI increases employment and transfers technology. More technology and chances to build human capital cause growth. Within this section, there should be a number of sources that support your claim. It is also useful to mention high impact sources that do not support your claim but may have flaws that explain the lack of support. Finally, you must explain where research on this topic should go in the future in order to obtain a definitive answer to your question. Design the study. Let me know what data you would need or what experiment would have to be run. Outline the empirical design. Let the reader know of any challenges a future study might face. You do not actually have to carry out this study. This paper is meant to be a thesis proposal instead of a full thesis.

It is not required to use any data or theoretical analysis; however, these tools can often add to a paper. For example, you may want to collect data and see if there is a correlation between a country's growth rate and their FDI inflow. A possible correlation would then yield a strong argument for further investigation. A theoretical approach may also be helpful. You can design a game, mathematical model, or some other type of theory that best fits your paper. For example, you may believe that there is an optimal ratio between foreign aid and FDI. You can then design a GDP function and show how one may go about finding this optimal ratio.

You are expected to use economic concepts that you have previously studied. This may be a simple concept, like supply and demand graphs, or a more complex concept, like logistic regressions. You are also expected to include a number of sources, both academic and nonacademic. Much of your paper will be a literature review, or a critical analysis of what has already been written on your topic and gaps in the literature. It is not enough to just state what each source says, you must critically evaluate it. Below is a list a requirements that must be in the final draft of your research paper.

Requirements

- 7 or more academic sources, at least 5 of which must be economic journal articles.
- 2 news sources from reputable news organizations.
- 3 sources from books, academic journals, think tanks, etc.
- 2 original figures or tables
- At least one in-text citations from each of your sources (Paraphrase, don't quote).
 - Do not use block quotes, tables, figures, or charts that are not your original work unless absolutely necessary for the paper.
 - If you use them, make sure you cite them fully and properly.
 - Any quotes, tables, figures, or charts used from these sources will not count towards the length of your paper.
- MLA format throughout (see "MLA guidelines" in "Course Material" tab on Blackboard).
- Suggested page length 15-22 pages.
- All previous graded assignments should be attached with a paper clip. Each individual assignment should be stapled.

Research Paper Components:

Topic plus 12 sources	10%
Working notes	10%
Outline	10%
First Draft	20 %
Revised version	50%

Assignment Due Dates

Assignment	Due Date
Topic plus 12 sources	9/10
Working notes	9/24
Outline	10/8
First Draft	10/24
Revised Draft	11/14
Class Presentations	11/19-11/21 & 12/4-12/6

- All assignments are due at the start class on their Due Date.