

ECONOMICS 153

Outline for Class Research Paper

- I. Your topic
What question are you addressing? Present it as a question
Explain why it is important or relevance (why are you studying it?)

- II. Major literature (only the major references; state what is considered known about your topic, what has been researched but is still controversial; what is not known)

Your contribution to the literature: what will your research add to our knowledge about this question?

- III. Conceptual framework

Indicate a simple basic model or conceptual framework (i.e., list the assumptions) and its implications (i.e., your hypotheses).
Indicate if you are using a model already in the literature and how you are modifying it.

Is there a competing model that would provide an alternative explanation of your topic? If so, would you be able to identify two sets of outcomes that would allow you to distinguish between the two models?

State the hypotheses that you will be analyzing with data.

Identify the major variables that you need to measure (quantitative) or the qualitative data you will need to analyze your hypotheses.

- III. Empirical Analysis

Present the data that you will use in your analysis.

If you are using qualitative or case study data: Evaluate the quality of your data. To what extent can your data be generalized?

If you are using a large data set: Convince us that the important variables are meaningful (i.e., present some cross tabs), the sample size is adequate, etc. Discuss what you expect your major estimation problems to be. Will you be able to identify your model? Will you be estimating structural equation(s) or a reduced form equation?

IV. Conclusions

Restate your topic and your contribution to our knowledge about this topic.

What are the policy implications of your findings?

How robust are your findings? How do they compare to previous research?

If a researcher disagrees with your findings because your findings disagree with the researcher's findings, how would he/she attack your model or estimation?

Note: This paper may be the first stage of a paper that leads to an Honors Thesis, and your analysis may be “in progress”. You will need to have done some data analysis during this course and present preliminary results. However you do not necessarily need to have a finished paper, and this paper may serve as a working paper.