

GUIDELINES FOR ROUGH DRAFT AND FINAL VERSION OF RESEARCH PROJECT

This assignment intends to keep you on track to have a polished and complete 10-12 page research paper by May 3. It does so by requiring you to complete a rough draft, and to make a presentation to the class.

Both rough draft and final copy should be about 10-12 pages long (word processed, double spaced, one inch margins, 10 or 12 point font). Tables and graphs are in addition.

The content of rough draft and final copy will often be rather different. Perhaps half the rough paper will attempt to come to a conclusion based on what will often be preliminary and tentative results. The other half will not only describe motivation and background literature, but, insofar as the results are preliminary, describe what you also plan to do in the final version. Of course, the final copy may also include a description of plans for future research. But such a description will be a brief paragraph or two. For many of you, the outline of future tasks in your rough draft will take a page or two instead. It is not necessary to include more than a paragraph or two, if you have completed the bulk of your work by the time of you complete your rough draft. In that case, the final version will differ large from the rough draft by filling in small holes and by polishing the presentation.

I expect everyone to have collected basic data series prior to writing the rough draft. Of course, you may ultimately add in an additional year two, or get an alternative measure of one or another variable.

In the final version, aim to discuss whether a given variable, or set of variables, has a quantitatively important effect on a variable that you aim to explain or understand. The rough draft should at least describe what effect you expect to discuss in the final version, and of course should include a preliminary discussion of quantitative significance if possible. Papers that use regression techniques should also discuss statistical significance.

Your oral presentation should follow the lines of your overview. Since two people will present per class period, you will have about 35 minutes. Bear in mind that given the number of students in the class, it is unrealistic to expect your fellow students to remember everything you said in presenting your three page overview. So aim to have a self-contained discussion.