

Guidelines for Term Paper

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Term Paper Deadline: 6/18

- You should submit your term paper before 6/18
 - ▶ No late submission
 - ▶ Let me know if you want me to submit grade earlier
- Write your paper in Chinese or English
- You need to type your paper using **Latex**

Term Paper Deadline: 6/18

- **Please upload your paper before 11:59pm 6/18 using the following link**
 - ▶ <https://www.dropbox.com/request/aBeYTc1TAe2LUXbRj4VA>
 - ▶ Format of file name: studentID+name
 - ▶ Example: 1095323010_TzuTingYang

Term Paper Deadline: 6/18

- Letter style: roughly 2,000-3,000 words (less than 10 pages)
- The maximum number of exhibits (figures + tables) is five
 - ▶ See **Economics letters**
 - ▶ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/economics-letters>
 - ▶ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S01651765>
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Guideline for Writing a Term Paper

- Use credible causal inference methods to answer an empirical question
 - ▶ Test economics (social science) theory
 - ▶ Estimate policy effect
 - ▶ Any interesting questions regarding to human behavior/social phenomenon

Guideline for Writing a Term Paper

- The Typical Structure of an Empirical Paper

- 1 **Introduction/Motivation**
- 2 Literature Review
- 3 Theoretical Framework
- 4 **Data and Sample**
- 5 **Empirical Method**
- 6 **Results**
- 7 **Discussion and Conclusion**

Guideline for Writing a Term Paper

0 Title of the paper

- ▶ You need to give the title of your paper
- ▶ Use one sentence to summarize the research question you want to answer in this paper
 - ★ 失業對健康的影響
 - ★ The Effect of Financial Resource on Fertility: Evidence from Lottery Winners

1. Introduction/Motivation

- The question you are trying to address
 - ▶ Stating the hypothesis to be tested directly is a good way to do this
- Briefly state why we should care about this question
 - ▶ Is it an unproven theoretical result?
 - ▶ An important policy question or an interesting human behavior/social phenomenon?
- Briefly state how you answer this question
 - ▶ Empirical strategy you use to answer the question
 - ▶ What data you are using
- Briefly discuss your main findings and contributions
- **We usually finish “Introduction” in the end of project**

2. Literature Review

- The first section should discuss previous research that is **directly relevant to your paper**
 - ▶ Not every single paper written on the topic
- The second section should explain your contribution in more detail
- You should discuss how your approach is different from what has been done before
 - ▶ Answer a question more broadly/specifically
 - ▶ Use different data
 - ▶ Use different empirical strategy
 - ▶ Comparing how you are improving on a previous paper is useful
- You can combine introduction with literature review when you mention your contributions.

3. Theoretical Framework

- If your paper does not try to verify economics theory, you might not need this part
- Not every paper will require the development of a full theoretical model
- In the end, you need an empirical model, so the theoretical model you develop must lead somehow to what you are testing

4. Data and Sample

Data

- Describe the name and source of the data you are using and the period it covers
- Describe whether you have a panel, cross section or time series, what the unit of observation is and how many observations you have
- You may want to highlight the important limitations of this data

4. Data and Sample

Sample

- The second section should present (relevant) descriptive statistics of the estimated sample
- You should have a couple of tables with means and standard deviations for the variables you will be using in the analysis
- You may want to present these descriptive statistics for different sub-groups

5. Empirical Method

- You should write down the basic econometric specification first and explain each of the variables and the parameters of interest
 - ▶ The model could be OLS, PDS, matching, IV, DID, RDD, SCM or others
 - ▶ Since IV, DID, RDD, and SCM can deal with unobserved confounding factors, these methods usually give us more credible results
- Discuss the identification assumption of your method.
- Discuss why this is the correct/best specification for the question you wish to address.
- Discuss why you want to control for certain variables

6. Results

- You should present results in a way that develops your argument step-by-step
 - ▶ For example, 1. main results; 2. break those results down by subgroups; 3. perform robustness checks
- Any tables with parameter estimates should clearly state which outcome variable you are using
- You should let readers know which control variables are included in your empirical models (put this information in table notes)
- Just discuss the most interesting and important estimates in your discussion of the table: **estimated causal effects**
- Make sure you report standard errors with your estimates in the tables
- Just look at some economics journals for a good table format

6. Results

- Interpret the magnitude of your parameter estimates in an economically meaningful way
 - ▶ For example, “we find that $b=0.3$, so that increasing X by one unit increases y by 0.3. The implied elasticity is...”
- **Graphical evidence is a very convincing way to show your reader that you have found something real**
 - ▶ Graphs are worth a thousand words
- Discuss whether the key estimates are statistically significant
 - ▶ Compare your results to what others have found
- **Don't worry if you don't find anything significant as long as your methods are credible and you have interpreted the results well**

7. Discussion and Conclusion

- Briefly summarize your findings
- Discuss some limitations in this paper
- Discuss your future plan about this project if you have more time and data