

THE EFFECT OF WRITING LONGER PAPERS

ECON 480 - ECONOMETRICS - FALL 2018

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 2. But students might also put in low quality filler hoping to inflate their grades

- I collected data from 7 different classes at 2 different colleges where I assigned a longer term paper

Class	n
Econometrics	32
IEP	51
IO	22
Trade	23

School	n
GMU	51
Hood	77

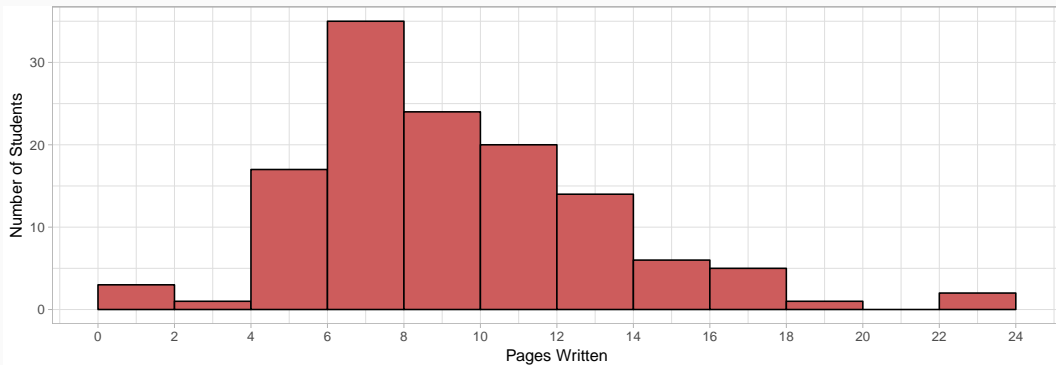
Year	n
2014	51
2016	38
2017	39

Variable	Description
Grade	Grade on paper assignment (0-100)
Pages	Number of pages written
Female	= 1 if student is female, = 0 if male
Morning	= 1 if class met in morning, = 0 if afternoon
Hood	= 1 if class taught at Hood, = 0 if other school
Metrics	= 1 if class was Econometrics, = 0 if other class

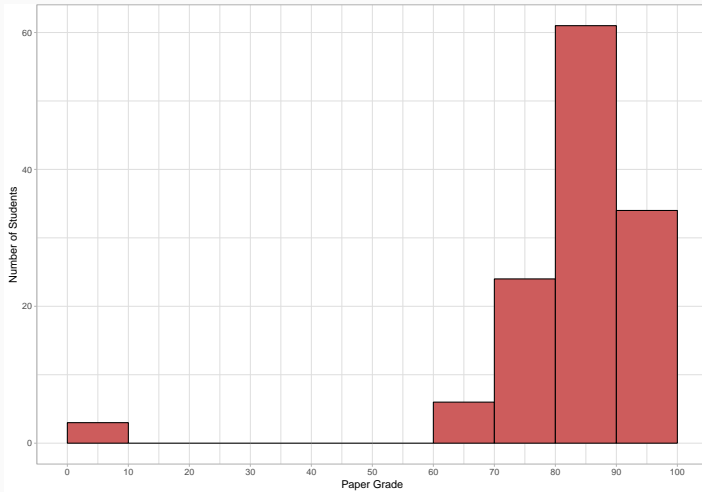
SUMMARY STATISTICS

Variable	Obs	Min	Q1	Median	Q3	Max	Mean	Std. Dev.
Grade	128	0	80	86	91	100	83.94	14.86
Pages	128	0	7	9	12	24	9.79	3.91

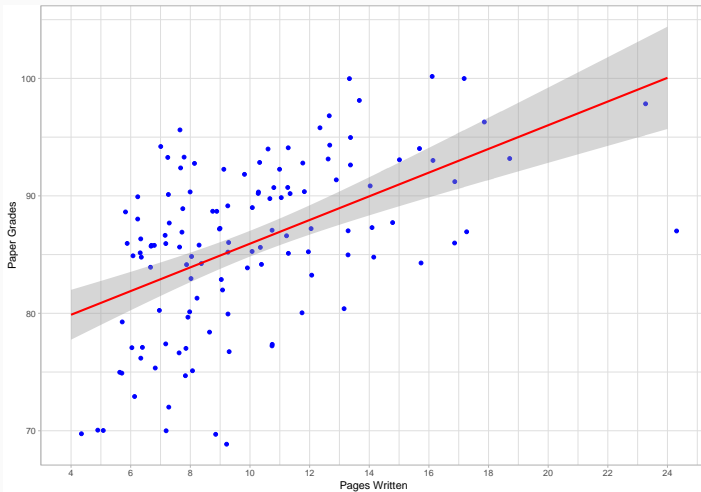
DATA: HISTOGRAM OF PAGES WRITTEN



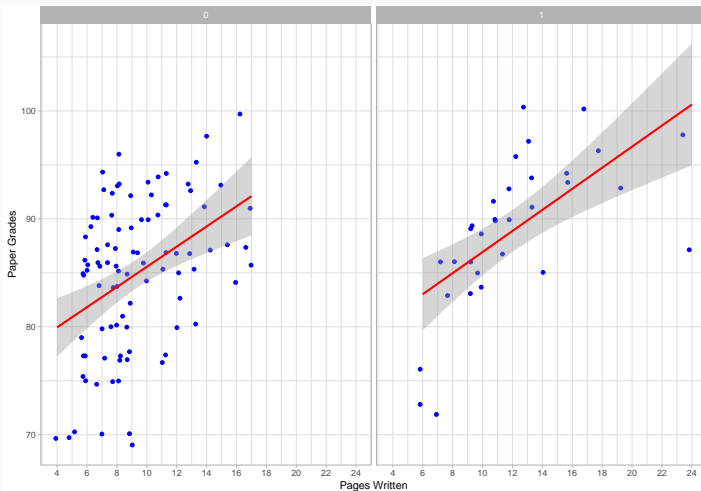
DATA: HISTOGRAM OF PAPER GRADES



SCATTERPLOT OF PAGES WRITTEN AND GRADE WITH OUTLIERS (0's) DROPPED



SCATTERPLOT FOR ECONOMETRICS CLASSES VS NON-ECONOMETRICS CLASSES



$$\text{Grade}_i = \text{Length}_i + \text{Final}_i + \text{Female}_i + \text{Morning}_i + \text{Hood}_i + \text{Metrics}_i \epsilon_i$$

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- **Endogeneity**: unmeasured attributes (e.g. paper topic, student's diligence, conscientiousness, intelligence, etc) correlated with both number of **Length** and **Grade**

RESULTS

	Grade					
	All	No 0s	No 0s	No 0s	No 0s	No 0s
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Pages	2.154*** (0.279)	0.711*** (0.154)	0.725*** (0.149)	0.867*** (0.144)	0.813*** (0.138)	0.815*** (0.145)
Final		0.259*** (0.055)	0.255*** (0.053)	0.211*** (0.051)	0.189*** (0.049)	0.189*** (0.049)
Female			—3.234*** (1.007)	—2.608*** (0.961)	—0.904 (1.021)	—0.904 (1.025)
Morning				—5.208*** (1.282)	—3.621*** (1.291)	—3.590** (1.484)
Hood					4.137*** (1.109)	4.170*** (1.363)
Metrics						—0.059 (1.414)
Constant	62.856*** (2.935)	56.606*** (4.352)	58.109*** (4.221)	64.475*** (4.272)	62.352*** (4.099)	62.325*** (4.167)
Observations	128	125	125	125	125	125

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- Poor advice to just write long papers!