

SOME GUIDANCE ON READING REPORTS AND CLASS PRESENTATIONS

For each published article assigned in the course, you will either write a one-page report or participate in a group presentation and lead a class discussion. For either task, you should read the article carefully, paying attention to the following questions:

- What is the research question?
- How are the authors proposing to answer it?
- Are the methods appropriate for the question?
- What are the results, and how do we interpret them?
- What flaws does the study have?

You should also pay attention to when concepts from class come up in the article.

Reading Report

Reading reports should be 1 page, single-spaced. You should start by summarizing the article, but beyond that, the content is flexible; you should write about the issues that interested you most in the article. For instance, you might write about flaws in the econometric method, or theoretical questions, or policy implications, or things you did not understand. The key is that you seriously engage with the article. You are especially encouraged to note any parts you did not understand.

Group Presentation

The presentation will take 20-30 minutes, followed by 20-30 minutes of class discussion. The presentation slides should include the following sections:

1. Introduction: Describe the motivation for the study, its research question, and a quick preview of its results.
2. Data: Describe the dataset(s). What makes it (them) appropriate for the research question?
3. Method: Describe the econometric approach. What statistical tools are the authors using?
4. Results: Walk the class through the main results. You should copy and paste a few (not all) tables and figures into the presentation, so you can speak directly about the results as they are presented in the article.
5. Interpretation: Describe the authors' interpretation of the results. Do you agree with it?
6. Limitations: What, if any, are the study's flaws? You can critique the data, the method, or the interpretation.
7. Implications: Describe the study's broader implications. These could be related to policy, economic theory, scientific knowledge, etc.
8. Discussion: Pose five questions for class discussion.

You should meet with your group in person to plan the presentation. Please send a draft of the presentation slides to tvogl@ucsd.edu by 12 p.m. the day before the relevant class, so that we can give you some feedback on them. Of course, feel free to come to office hours to discuss your ideas for the presentation.