

# Final Research Report

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**Due** Dec 8 by 11:59pm    **Points** 100    **Submitting** a file upload

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## Instructions

The final research report is designed to showcase your applied and analytical skills, which you have developed over the term. It's also a "starting point" for a larger research project, like an ECON 490 paper or independent study project. It is typically due in the first week of exams (see below for details).

The goal of your paper is to:

- Select an appropriate research question, using the data chosen for the class project.
- Select a causal methodology, and use it to analyze the data
- Interpret your answer, in order to answer your research question
- Discuss the assumptions necessary to interpret your result as a causal relationship
- Provide an extension or hypothetical causal analysis which could improve your analysis in the future (an "extension").

## Formatting and Guidelines

Your paper should be written as a scholarly, academic research paper. In terms of formatting:

- The font selected should be Times New Roman 11 point font.
- Pages should be formatted at standard margins (2.54 cm on all sides) and double spaced.
- Pages should be numbered clearly
- All papers should include a cover page, with the student's name, student number, course title, and date.
- Papers can vary in length; most will probably be 7-10 pages in length, but there is no firm upper or lower bound on paper length.

Your paper should also include clear formatting and organization, including section headers. Exactly how you choose to organize your paper is up to you, but a suggestion based on the rubric would be:

- Introduction
  - Introduces your paper, gives motivation, and provides an overview of your results and methods
- Background
  - Provides any necessary background, including related papers you used to develop your methods or question (literature review)
- Data
  - A description of the data you used, including the analysis sample and variables used
- Methodology
  - A description of the method(s) you used to answer your research question, including the assumptions needed to interpret them as causal
- Results
  - A summary of the results of your method, when applied to the data, with specific reference to how they answer your question
- Discussion + Extension
  - An assessment of the assumptions and results, with a focus on how you could interpret them from a causal point of view
  - This should also include an extension, which is either a test or hypothetical design to help solidify your analysis as a causal relationship
- Conclusion
  - A brief summary of your findings, with a focus on what you would do to improve and extend this into a full research paper in the future.

Your paper must also include a references section, with in-line citations used where appropriate.

## Submission

- You should submit your final report online via Canvas by the deadline.
- You must also submit your DO file, which should process the data chosen for the course and produce your main results when run.

### Final Report Rubric

Criteria	Ratings	Pts
<p>Research question or hypothesis</p> <p>Is there a clearly stated research question?</p> <p>Is the question precise enough to answer empirically?</p>		5.0 pts
<p>Motivation and background</p> <p>Is the research question well-motivated?</p> <p>Does the student summarize relevant background?</p> <p>Is the motivation clearly connected to the research question?</p>		5.0 pts
<p>Data identification and explanation</p> <p>Is the choice of analysis sample explained well and is appropriate for the analysis?</p> <p>Are the variables, and their types, well-explained?</p> <p>Is the source of the data identified?</p> <p>Are any relevant transformations explained properly?</p>		5.0 pts
<p>Summary Statistics</p> <p>Is there a clearly produced table of summary statistics provided for the main variables of interest?</p>		5.0 pts
<p>Methodology</p> <p>Is the method chosen to answer the question appropriate?</p> <p>Is the choice of method well-explained and motivated?</p> <p>Is the method clearly explained?</p>		5.0 pts
<p>Identification and causal assumptions</p> <p>Are the relevant identification or causal assumptions necessary for the method explained?</p> <p>Are they discussed clearly and coherently?</p>		10.0 pts
<p>Specification(s)</p> <p>Does the student clearly explain their specification(s)?</p> <p>Is there an equation written down to describe the specification?</p> <p>Is it appropriate to answering the research question?</p>		5.0 pts

Criteria	Ratings	Pts
<b>Table of Results</b> Is there a well-produced table of results? Are the results presented correctly?		5.0 pts
<b>Interpretation of Results</b> Are the results explained in the context of the research question? Is the explanation correct? Is it clear?		10.0 pts
<b>Analysis/discussion of results</b> Does the student explain the results in the context of the method chosen? Are the relative strengths or weakness of the results assessed? Are alternative explanations suggested and/or addressed?		10.0 pts
<b>Quality of Extension</b> Is the student's extension well-executed? Is it explained well? Is it clearly connected to the methodology and research question?		10.0 pts
<b>References</b> Is the paper properly cited? Are references used when appropriate? Is there a table of references?		5.0 pts
<b>Professionalism</b> Is the paper professional produced? Is it well-formatted? Are there typographical or formatting errors?		10.0 pts
<b>Grammar and spelling</b> Is the paper grammatically correct? Are there minimal spelling errors? Is it clearly written?		10.0 pts
Total Points: 100.0		