Econ 340: Research Project Submission 1 Example
Student Name 1 and Student Name 2

1. Clearly specify what your research question is.

    - *Does the student-teacher ratio affect elementary school education?*

2. Why do you think this question is interesting or important?

    - *This is an important question as it informs policymakers of the value of mandating maximum class sizes. Increasing the student-teacher ratio across schools is a costly affair. Being able to quantify its benefits can help policymakers make more informed decisions.*

3. Fill in the following table. Use the names of the variables in the dataset.

	Name	**Description**
Name of your dataset	*caschools.csv*	*Data on school characteristics and test performance for 420 school districts in California from 1998-99.*
Dependent variable	*testscr*	*Average reading and writing score*
Main Independent variable	*str*	*Student-teacher ratio*
First additional control variable	*high_comp_stu**	*Binary variable that takes value 1 if computers per student are above the median, and 0 otherwise*
Second additional control variable	*meal_pct*	*Percent qualifying for reduced-price lunch*

* We will create this variable using *comp_stu (computers per student).*

4. How do you think the primary independent variable correlates with the dependent variable? Explain the reasoning behind your thinking.

    - *We think that there should be a negative correlation between test scores and the student-teacher ratio. That is, a higher student-teacher ratio should lead to worse student performance as each student is not getting much individual attention in the class.*

5. Fill the following table with the *expected* sign of the correlation between different variables.

	Computers per student>median	*Reduced-price lunch*
Test score	+	-
Student-teacher ratio	-	+