

ECON 340

Economics Research Methods

Div Bhagia

Research Project Interim Submission Guidelines

Research Question

- Your question should concern the impact of one variable on another
- Select a primary independent variable, a dependent variable, and at least two control variables.



Data

- You can pick a dataset from the Econ340 Datasets Dropbox folder or use an external dataset
- There is a list of all the datasets in the folder; each folder contains the codebook (description of variables)
- If you need help with formatting an external dataset, email me at least a week in advance
- Your dataset should meet the following criteria:
 - Have at least 100 observations
 - Contain all the variables you plan to use

Interim Submission: Overview

Goals:

- (a) Describe your research question and data
- (b) Perform a basic analysis of your data in R

The submission will serve as a foundation for the “Introduction” and “Descriptive Analysis” sections of your final paper.

Refer to the example submission and its corresponding R code to guide you.

Tasks

1. Complete the cover sheet.
2. Specify and motivate your research question.
3. Describe your data and variables. All variables should be either continuous or binary.
4. Present summary statistics for all your variables and comment.

Tasks

5. Present a graph showing the relationship between your dependent and primary independent variable

- Scatter plot if both variables are continuous
- Bar plot if one variable is binary

Also, report the correlation between the two variables. Summarize what you learn.

6. Present the correlation between all your variables in one or more tables and discuss. Comment on the direction of bias from not accounting for control variables.

Submission

- Prepare your submission in Microsoft Word and submit it in PDF format, along with R code and data (if changed significantly) on Canvas.
- Export figures from R and include them in your document.
- For tables, you can copy from the output and format them as a table in Word (use a fixed-width font like Courier New) or take a screenshot.
- All tables and figures should have a name and number.
- The write-up should be in essay format, no bullet points.