Final Submission Rubric

I have opted to utilize the following rubric to grade a quantitative research project. As this is my second-time teaching, I have encountered difficulties with using rubrics where the evaluation of certain tasks does not fit into the predefined ratings. Until I become more familiar with what to expect, I have decided to utilize multiple tasks/criteria with specified points but leave the grades for each criterion unspecified and provide open-ended comments. I have already tested a similar rubric for interim submissions for this course this semester, and it has proven to be successful. While I do retain some common comments during grading to reuse, it is not essential as I only have about 10 projects to grade each semester. This method enables me to incorporate certain elements of a holistic rubric. Note that students do get detailed instructions on what is expected of them on the research project apart from the rubric.

Introduction (10): Mentions the research question and discusses why it is interesting and important. Previews the main results and discusses whether the results are correlational or causal.

Literature Review (5): Cites two relevant academic papers in APA format. The references list is included at the end.

Descriptive Analysis (10): Describes the data and variables. Presents and discusses summary statistics. Presents a graphical relationship between the dependent and the main independent variable.

Empirical Strategy (10): Recaps research question. Presents and justifies the regression specification and discusses the interpretation of each coefficient.

Results and Analysis (10): Presents regression results. Interprets the sign, value, and significance level of the coefficient on the main independent variable across different specifications. Comments on how coefficients change by adding controls. Interprets the adjusted R2 for the models. Discusses the results considering the research question and caveats, if any.

Conclusion (5): Summarizes results and discusses what we learn from them.

Format and Coherence (5): The content is coherent and well-formatted. All figures and tables are numbered and presented appropriately.

Writing (5): Writing is organized and clear. No grammatical errors.

R Code and dataset (10): R code and data (if needed) are submitted.

This rubric is a work in progress. I am developing this rubric for grading a quantitive research project. The numbers in the parenthesis specify the points for each section. I was thinking about having some points set aside for "Writing, Coherence, and Creativity" to incorporate some elements of a holistic rubric.

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|  | 0-30% | 30-90% | 100% |
| Introduction (10) | Doesn't specify the research question | Specifies the research question but either fails to mention why the question is important or doesn't summarize the results. | Describes the question and why it is important. Contains a brief summary of the results. |
| Description of the dataset (5) | Source of data or what are the main dependent and independent variables is missing | Description of the data and variables is provided but is unclear or incomplete | Includes a complete description of the data. (1) Specifies the source of the data, (2) mentions and describes the main dependent and independent variables used in the analysis. |
| Literature Review (10) | Doesn't mention two peer-review academic papers | Mentions two peer-reviewed papers, but they are irrelevant to your research, or you don't draw the connection between the papers and your research. The references are not in APA format. | Mentions two peer-reviewed papers and draws the connection between them and the findings of this paper. References are in APA format. |
| Descriptive Analysis (15) | Summary statistics not included. Correlations or conditional mean table not included. | Tables included but results not discussed in the text. | Table with summary statistics for all variables. Correlations between any continuous variables. Conditional mean table for binary independent variable. All results are discussed in the text. |
| Empirical Strategy (15) |  |  |  |
| Results (15) |  |  |  |
| Conclusion (10) |  |  |  |
| R Code (10) | Doesn't run or is incorrect | Only runs partially | Everything looks good |
| Writing, Coherence, and Creativity (10) | Excellent | Good | Needs improvement |