Better Writing Leads to More Citations in Economics

Benjamin Elsner*
University College Dublin and IZA
and
Jack O'Connell
University College Dublin and Central Statistics Office

October 1, 2025

Abstract

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Aenean auctor nisi vitae libero tempus, ut laoreet enim tincidunt. Cras efficitur magna turpis, nec rutrum massa posuere vel. Sed tincidunt enim non turpis tempor, non ultrices lacus pellentesque. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per conubia nostra, per inceptos himenaeos. Morbi sit amet mollis justo. Donec efficitur elementum justo sed tristique. Suspendisse massa ante, vulputate quis tincidunt non, sollicitudin vitae purus. Praesent id turpis vitae lorem fringilla ultrices. Duis non arcu lacinia velit semper vestibulum vitae in odio. Mauris ornare arcu vitae tortor efficitur congue. Praesent commodo diam arcu, id auctor magna venenatis et. Vestibulum at euismod lorem. Sed id ornare elit, eu maximus lacus. Proin efficitur vitae mauris eu molestie. Etiam id ligula quam. Phasellus vitae posuere tellus. Sed facilisis eros quis fringilla maximus. Mauris vel orci sed neque cursus fringilla iaculis sed nulla. Proin ornare mollis odio, at.

Keywords: Citations, Sentiment, Readability

^{*}true

1 Introduction

Standard introduction formula:

- Hook
- Importance of the topic
- What question we answer in this paper and why this question is important
- What we do? Data, identification strategy
- What we find? Main results
- 2-3 paragraphs. Contribution to the literature; no lit review anywhere else.

2 Theoretical Considerations

Why are readability and citations linked?

3 Data

Describe here the data sources (what it contains, how it was collected) and sample construction.

3.1 Data on paper abstracts

We use data from Hengel (2022).

3.2 Data on readability

4 Empirical Strategy

To study the association between readability and citations, we estimate the following regression model:

- 5 Results
- 6 Robustness checks
- 7 Conclusion

APPENDIX

References

Hengel, E. (2022), 'Publishing while female: are women held to higher standards? evidence from peer review', *The Economic Journal* **132**(648), 2951–2991.

URL: https://doi.org/10.1093/ej/ueac032