Guidelines for Rmarkdown Documents in API-209/210 Submissions

October 2019

Output Format

Output should be a PDF with the following regular formats:

- 11 or 12pt font
- reasonable margins (1 to 1.25 inches)
- a common font like Helvetica (this document), Times, or Computer Modern (Rmarkdown's default)
- A clear title which indicates your name, date, and problem set number

Suppress code and warnings

Because the point of most memos in a policy setting is not to show code, do not show the code that produces your output, unless to make a specific comment on the code. (This involves using the `echo = FALSE` to your code chunk as a default). To show your work, you'll be asked to submit your .Rmd file.

Similarly, suppress output messages when loading packages (This can be done, for example, by using the `include = FALSE` option), and suppress warning or output messages for your code (this can be done, for example with the `warnings = FALSE`` option)

Leveraging In-line R-code

To avoid hard-coding answers, you are encouraged to write in-line R code in-text. For example, after assigning the number of rows of a dataset to an object,

```r
library(tidyverse)
data(gss_cat)
n_gss <- nrow(gss_cat)
```

We can write in Rmarkdown

```
There are `r n_gss`  observations in the GSS dataset.
```

which will produce the rendered text:

There are 21,483 observations in the GSS dataset.

Use Section headers

Label sections with headers using the `#` symbol.

Templates

Pre-made templates are useful for creating standardized documents. When using a PDF, you can provide a `.sty` file (written in TeX) in the same directoy as your `.Rmd` file and call it in the YAML header of your `.Rmd`, as in

```
---
title: "Guidelines for Rmarkdown Documents in API-209/210 Submissions"
date: "`r format(Sys.time(), '%B %Y')`"
output:
  pdf_document:
    template: pset_style.sty
---
```

where `ps_style.sty` is the style file. A style file you are welcome to use is uploaded at this link – click "Raw" to copy the contents of this file.