

Research Presentation

One of the best ways to learn something is to explain it to other people. Thus, students in this class will do an in-depth reading of research done by professional economists that are published (or will eventually be published) in academic journals. The selection of papers presentations are those that are very well done, many of these papers have been very influential and others are on the cutting edge of the research frontier. This is meant to offer students an opportunity to delve into the intricacies of economic research. The assignment requires each student to present a research paper from the syllabus during a class session. The presentations are expected to last between 30 to 45 minutes, encompassing a thorough communication of the key elements of the chosen paper. Students will be evaluated on various criteria that reflect their understanding and helps them develop their communication skills. Without proper ability to communicate, research is of little use. Please see the example I sent you for Currie and Walker's E-ZPass Paper. Please email me any questions you may have about this assignment as soon as possible.

What you will be graded on:

1. Content Knowledge:

- Understanding of the selected paper's content is paramount, emphasizing a grasp of the underlying economic theory, data, empirical strategy, and main results. Accuracy and precision is important here.
- Students are encouraged to explore and present a secondary result that they find intriguing, fostering a deeper engagement with the material.

2. Verbal and Visual Communication:

- Clarity in verbal communication is crucial. Students must articulate complex economic concepts effectively, making the content accessible to their peers.
- Presentation slides play a vital role, requiring clear organization and visual appeal. Effective use of slides to present the paper's research question, economic theory, data, strategy, and results will contribute to a comprehensive evaluation.

3. Framing and Motivation of the Research Question:

- A critical aspect of the assignment is the student's ability to frame and motivate the research question addressed in the paper. This involves understanding the context, relevance, and potential implications of the research.

4. Interpretation of Tables, Figures, and Equations:

- Proficiency in interpreting and explaining the technical details within the paper, such as tables, figures, and equations, is essential. This demonstrates a deeper understanding of the research methodology.

5. Meeting with me (Dr. Soriano):

- Students are required to schedule a meeting with me at least two days before the presentation. This meeting serves to review a preliminary version of the presentation, ensuring accuracy and addressing any technical details or intricacies within the paper.

6. Other Grading Considerations:

- Grades will consider the inherent difficulty of the chosen paper, thus one should not be worried about engaging with challenging material
- Presenting earlier in the semester does not carry a disadvantage; rather, standards will progressively rise throughout the semester.
- While some typos and mistakes are natural, you will be penalized if it is clear you did not spend time polishing your presentation.