

Common Qualifier Paper Problems

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- ▶ Overclaiming

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- ▶ Underclaiming: under-contextualizing, conceptually

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- ▶ Organization

~~“(Why is this here?)”~~ ~~“(How related to prior?)”~~

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~~Vague description of A, description of B, my Hyp1~~ \leadsto
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- ▶ Insufficient detail about the case, data, methods, etc.
~~History of India, Assume we know India~~

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- ▶ Ignoring counterarguments, alternative explanations
~~“I’ve shown you evidence consistent with my theory X”~~ \leadsto
“I’ve shown you evidence consistent with my theory X, but
also inconsistent with Y and Z.” Have *something* to say;
demonstrate that you’ve thought about the problem.

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Data + Method that address exactly what you propose
- ▶ Accepting unacceptable limits
~~“X is too hard”, “Y not computationally feasible for me”,
“Z takes hours”, “To know W, must visit archive”~~ \leadsto
Get as close to the bleeding edge as you can.

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- ▶ Referring to the person rather than paper
~~“He argues”~~ \leadsto “Barker (2002) argues”

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- ▶ Some advice: <https://www.ryantmoore.org/papers.html>
- ▶ These notes:
https://github.com/ryantmoore/discussions/blob/main/994-2025-03-07__qualifier__probs.pdf

There are many potential pitfalls ...



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but you will write a great paper!

References I

Barker, David. 2002. *Rushed to Judgment: Talk Radio, Persuasion, and American Political Behavior*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.