

# SOC 5050: MarkDoc Quick Reference

Christopher Prener, Ph.D.

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## What is MarkDoc?

**MarkDoc** is a Stata package<sup>1</sup> written and maintained by **E. F. Haghish**, a professor at the University of Freiburg in Germany. MarkDoc allows you to create Markdown documents directly from your Stata do-files. These documents may require some additional editing after they are created (to embed images, or tweak the formatting of the document), but they provide a good starting place for producing well organized, reproducible research.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Packages are user-written programs that extend Stata's functionality. They are one of the reasons that Stata is such a powerful statistical computing platform.

<sup>2</sup> See the course **User's Guide** for additional details on MarkDoc and how you should use it in this course.

## MarkDoc Syntax

*Logging* The final product code and text should be logged using a .smcl file as opposed to all other log files, which I highly recommend formatting in plain text. Open the MarkDoc specific log file before beginning your report, and then close it when your report is complete. The log commands should be executed 'quietly'.<sup>3</sup>

```
quietly log ["filename"].smcl [, replace smcl name(markdoc)]
quietly log close markdoc
```

<sup>3</sup> 'Quietly' executing commands suppresses their output from any log files currently open.

*Generating the Markdown File* After you close the MarkDoc specific log file, issue the following command to generate the markdown version of the report:

```
markdoc ["filename"].smcl [, export(md) replace install]
```

*Inserting Basic Markdown* To insert a block of markdown formatted text in your report, use a special variation of the Stata comment syntax - `/***` followed by `***`:

```
/***
```

```
## Part 1 Results
```

```
Pellentesque interdum sapien sed nulla. Proin tincidunt. Aliquam
volutpat est vel massa. Sed dolor lacus, imperdiet non, ornare non,
commodo eu, neque. Integer pretium semper justo. Proin risus. Nul-
lam id quam. Nam neque. Duis vitae wisi ullamcorper diam congue
ultrices. Quisque ligula. Mauris vehicula.
```

```
***/
```

*Suppressing Output* The MarkDoc package allows you to execute commands without including the command itself or its output in the final file using `//OFF` followed by `//ON`:

```
//OFF
describe
//ON
```

## *Cleaning Up*

MarkDoc does not parse text perfectly, and sometimes introduces spaces into words. For example, “those” may become “thos e”. Make sure to carefully scan your file for typos before submitting it.

MarkDoc will also occasionally leave the `quietly log` command in the bottom of the output. Make sure to delete this from your output before submitting it.

## *MarkDoc Example*

See the accompanying file `basicMarkDocEx.do`, which provides an functioning example of these commands.

## *Document Details*

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