Durfee’s Notes on Writing

date

# **Review / context**

Below is my own synthesis of how to write

# **Subject 1: Introduction**

Can I fit my discussion into a single sentence?

If I move around my sentences, can I get the same idea across in fewer words?

Who would be furious if I forgot to cite them?

# **Subject 2: Data**

1. Who collected the data?
2. Does my profession trust this source?
3. How did they generate weights for the data?
4. What is their sampling frame?
   1. Is it possible they left people out?
   2. Is there a systematic double/under counting of a certain group?
5. Is their data cross referenced with other data sources?
6. Are these variables directly what I want to measure, or are they calculated?
7. Are these questions a NO or a SKIPPED BECAUSE IT DOESN’T APPLY?
8. Are any data imputed?
   1. Is it flagged as such?
   2. How is it imputed? How will that influence my empirical strategy?

# **Subject 3: Empirical Strategy**

* What is the intent to treat?
* What is the Average Treatment Effect?
* What is the Average Treatment Effect on the Treatment Group?
* What is the Average Treatment Effect on the Non-Treatment Group?
* Why is it a bad idea to throw the kitchen sink at this problem?
* Why can’t you just throw a Two Stage Instrumental Variable at the problem?
  + Do you have a weak IV?
  + Does monotonicity hold?
    - Who are your compliers?
    - Who are your always takers?
    - Who are your never takers
    - What does it mean to be a defier?
  + The exclusion restriction means your first and your second stage error terms are uncorrelated, prove this with a decomposition
  + Did you remember to reframe your results in terms of a local treatment effect rather than an average?
* Does quantile regression sidestep a problem?
* Remember Ashenfelter’s Dip
* Remember Roy’s problem, the problem of selection
* Clustering you error terms (robust)
  + Does clustering provide you with some useful method of organizing aggregate data into sub-aggregate groups?

# **Subject 4: Current methods of research**

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# **Subject 5: The Instrument**

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# **Subject 6: The Model**

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# **Subject 7: Data**

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# **Subject 8: Results**

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# **Subject 9: Analysis of Results**

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# **Subject 10: Robustness of results**

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# **Subject 11: Implications of Results and Conclusions**

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