

Final Paper Instructions

PPPA 8022
Spring 2026

The paper is due **Wednesday April 29 by 5 pm**. See syllabus for late policy – which is quite draconian. Do not expect full credit if you turn in the paper late. In this class it is usually better to turn in bad work on time than better work late.

How to submit the paper

Turn in materials using this google [form](#). Make sure that you have logged in with your GW email; you may need to log in via an incognito tab if you have troubles.

You must submit **four separate files**, all as pdfs.

- Your replication paper
- A pdf of the original paper
- A pdf of your program
- A pdf of the associated log file

Name all files [lastname]_[paper/log.file/original.paper]. pdf

Don't Plagiarize

In both the paper and the presentation, a good rule of thumb to avoid plagiarism is to not use more than three words in a row from any source. See [this](#) helpful guide on what paraphrasing is and is not.

I will and have reported instances of plagiarism to the Dean. If you're unsure about whether what you're doing is alright, please ask first. Ignorance is not a defense in these cases.

AI Disclosure

Please note at the end of the paper how you have used AI, including which AIs you used and for which purposes. This AI disclosure does not count as part of the page limit. If you have not used AI, please note this as well.

Mechanics

The final paper should

- be between 10 and 15 pages double-spaced, normal margins (not including tables and figures, which go at the end)
- have a short header at the first page that notes these two issues
 - I used data posted by author(s): [yes/no]
 - My “substantive addition” data are: [n/a or a few words – this is n/a if the data were not downloadable pre-prepared]

- appropriately cite references
 - quote if you're using the exact wording
 - cite if you are referencing ideas
- cite data sources as appropriate, which could include relegating to an appendix if that's easier
- include a bibliography as needed
- put all tables and figures at the end (these do not count toward the page limit)

Substance

The final paper should

- explain why you did or did not replicate the author(s)'s work
- be substantially explicable without my reading the original article
- make the comparison between your work and the author(s)'s clear in the table, figures and text
- use the active, not passive voice (not "the data were assembled," but "I assembled the data")
- present an extension of the authors' work

Remember that this class focuses on issues of causality. You need to focus on these issues in your paper and presentation.

Organization

You don't need an abstract or cover page.

Exactly how to best organize a paper depends on what you're studying and what it is you'd like to communicate. Usually, academic papers have the following sections

- introduction
- literature review
 - in economics papers, this is almost never its own section
 - you should not have a section like this in your paper unless you are reviewing some literature that we need to understand for your replication
- data
- methods
- estimation and results
- conclusion

Citations

For formatting of citations, please use the standard economics formatting, which you can see in any of the working papers on my [website](#), or in any NBER [working paper](#). I am mostly concerned with my ability to follow where your information came from, and less with the particular form of citation.