

Brief Guidance for Term Papers in FE312 – Papers due December 7th

1) The paper should be roughly 8-10 pages in length (including graphs but not including bibliography), double-spaced, 12 Times New Roman font. This is just a suggestion, but it is a good suggestion.

2) The paper should begin with a *thesis*. This is a statement that you will attempt to defend. Examples: The fiscal policy of country X hurt the country's GDP growth. The financial crisis in country Y could have been averted if they only did Z. The central bank of country U caused hyperinflation. The taxes of country V are choking off investment demand. And so on.

Notice that this statement can be either positive (what you think was or is) or normative (what you think should have happened or should happen). The thesis should be stated in the first paragraph of your paper.

3) The rest of your paper is essentially a defense of your thesis. You should definitely use the arguments made by other economists to support yours. This will require a pretty good knowledge of the literature around your topic. Therefore you should cite at least a handful of sources. Actual journal articles by economists are preferred (you should have at least a couple of these), but books and other online sources are also acceptable. Here's some websites you can access for economics journals, either published or not:

www.jstor.org

www.nber.org

www.ssrn.com/ern/index.html

<http://ideas.repec.org/>

4) You should also use some data to support your thesis. This will require actually downloading data from the web and forming at least one diagram yourself (scatter-plot, bar-chart, pie-chart, time-line, whatever). No econometrics necessary, although you can run regressions if you so want. Some empirical support for your argument however will be necessary no matter what your topic.

Have fun with it. Looking forward to the final product. A. S.