

ECN 209: Group Project Information

Goal of the Project: Ask a question about the world, and evaluate this question using data and econometric analysis.

Part I: Group Project Proposal

Goal: Demonstrate that you have a viable dataset and a potentially interesting question (or questions).

Process: This proposal will suggest one or a couple questions you would like to answer, and make a good and clear case for why this dataset is a good approach to answering those questions.

You must find your own data, but I'm here to help. Talk with me, or Mary Scanlon, our research librarian. (scanlomag@wfu.edu). There is a course research guide on the ZSR webpage: ZSR Library -> Research Guides -> Economics -> ECN209: Applied Econometrics.

There are two components to the proposal:

1. Support for your idea(s)—
 - Why is it interesting?
 - What are some possible questions you will ask?
 - What are the dependent variable(s) you will investigate?
 - What are some important independent variables?
 - Briefly, what support do you have for your hypothesis (i.e. literature review, economic theory)
2. Description of your data—
 - Where did you obtain it?
 - Do you think it is measuring what you want it to measure? (i.e. do you have the appropriate variables to answer your question? do the summary statistics make sense? does it have enough observations? What is the population it surveys?)
 - This is where you will be very detailed about what your variables are and what their distributions look like. Show that your data is appropriate to use to answer the question you describe. You will also use our preliminary statistical techniques to lend support for your question (NOT regression analysis yet, that's Part II.) Ex. Histograms, scatter plots, others??

This proposal should be approximately 3-4 pages to answer 1. and 2., plus several pages with nicely formatted tables that present Stata analysis of your data. There should be a references cited page for your data source as well as any other reference sources you cite in your proposal.

Deadline: Thursday, March 19th in class.

The final grade on both components will incorporate peer evaluation scores on projection contribution.