

Paper Criteria and Grading

The course paper is worth 35 percent of your course grade. It should be 8-12 pages long, not including bibliography, tables of contents, graphs, etc. I will not read past the 12th page and will subtract 3 points for each page less than 8 pages.

There is a collection of writing guides in the Environmental Economics library that may prove useful.

A rough outline for a 10 page paper could look something like:

- I. Introduction -- What is the policy question? Why is it important? (1.5 page)
- II. Background -- What research has already been done on the topic? (1 page)
- III. Model -- Simplify the problem and use an economic model (graphs, equations, etc) to examine an interesting feature of your problem or a proposed solution (4 pages)
- IV. Results -- What does your model show? (2 pages)
- V. Conclusions -- What implications do your results have for policy? (1.5 page)

Points (35 total) will be assigned approximately as follows:

Problem/Topic (2.5 points) -- Is the topic appropriate for the course? Is it an economic problem?

Motivation (2.5 points) -- Has the problem been well motivated? Has the writer convinced me to care about the problem?

Model (15 points) -- Is the model related to the topic? Is it simple enough to understand while still answering the question asked? Does it make sense?

Results/Conclusions (5 points) -- Have the results of the model been appropriately interpreted?

Conclusions (5 points) -- Do the conclusions make sense? Are they related to the topic and based on the results of the model?

Writing and Style (5 points) -- Are there excessive grammar and spelling errors? Has the author written clearly, simply, and directly? Has he/she avoided clichés and passive voice?