

Group Project

Intro:

The class presentation will be performed in groups of three or four. Each group will present for 20 minutes and you will have the chance to determine your group and topic. You will be graded based on submitted updates throughout the semester and a public grading guide.

Suitable topics:

The topic should be suitable for analysis from the tools covered in class. It could very well be a complicated topic provided you are capable of narrowing it with the idea that you could continue your analysis as a Senior Project or in another course.

Typical Topics:

- a) Analysis of the Bailout
- b) Analysis of Past/Future Policy Reforms (Taxes, Education, Social Security)
- c) Smaller Public Analysis (Favorite Country/State/City/Town)

When choosing your topic try to keep in mind the corresponding chapter and relevant tools from class that your group can be use. I will help you with this.

The presentation will be standard:

- 1) Introduction
 - i. Why is This Important?
 - ii. What Do You Want Us to Learn (i.e. Conclusion)?
- 2) Motivating Data
- 3) Model for Explanation
- 4) Implications
- 5) Conclusion

The presentation will be academic in that you should be prepared to answer questions from your classmates and me throughout the presentation.

Steps and Deadlines:

Step 1: Due Friday September 25

Provide team members in your group. What are two or three topics you are considering? Pose each topic as a proposal of 50 words and be sure to answer the following:

What economic question do you seek to answer? Why is this important?

Step 2: Due Monday November 9

Revised Group Proposal and Sources:

Your new proposal of 200 words will answer the following questions. What is the question you are trying to answer? Why is this important for us to study? How do you plan to answer this question? Specifically, which model do you intend to use? Finally, what do you want us to learn during your presentation?

Answering these questions will point you to sources needed. I expect at least four different sources excluding encyclopedias and the CIA World Factbook. Additionally, one source should be a dataset. I am not opposed to using Wikipedia for a start; in fact, Wikipedia can often lead you to relevant sources.

Finally, be sure that you answer the questions addressed in your proposal.

Step 3: Due Monday November 23

Outline and Final List of Sources

This will be a detailed outline with approximate time values answering all questions I pose in the revised group statement. Additionally I would like a final list of sources.

Step 4: Presentation Day

Email me at least a rough draft of your slides two days before the presentation. (I want to be sure they work on my computer.) The final draft of the slides must be sent to me by 11AM of your presentation day. Additionally, I would bring a thumb drive with your slides in case your email does not go through. **All presentations will be given using my computer.**

Notes on Models

The models for your presentation do not need to be difficult. I want you to show a model from an economics course, preferably on the white board, which we will use to frame your presentation. This is the whole point of economic models. It is not that these give us a full picture of the world; they are used as a framework to help us understand phenomena. Show us one of these models (even if it looks identical to what we have seen in class). Keep it on the board and continually refer back to it.

Importance of the Question

Make this clear. This should be your first slide because it defines your scope. If a question from the audience is outside the scope of your project, you have your response.