

Department of Economics
Rubric for Evaluating the Use of Data in Student Work

Intended learning outcome assessed with this instrument: the ability to find, interpret and utilize economic information and data

Student work assessed: Student papers from 3 upper-level economics classes: Labor Economics, Econometrics, and International Economics

1. The paper has a clearly stated and coherent argument						
Criteria	5	4	3	2	1	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The paper's argument is clearly stated in the introduction. The argument is effectively sustained throughout the paper. There is a clear stated conclusion that references the evidence (quantitative, qualitative, or academic literature) and argument developed in the paper. 	Meets all criteria at high level		Meets some criteria; uneven		Meets few criteria, unclear	

2. The paper finds and presents quantitative data effectively						
Criteria	5	4	3	2	1	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative data are presented in graphical, tabular, or statistical form Sources for the data are authoritative and clearly identified Graphs/tables/figures have titles, labeled axes, and units of measurement that are clearly identified 	Meets all criteria at high level		Meets some criteria; uneven		Meets few criteria, unclear	

3. Quantitative data are used effectively in support of the paper's argument						
Criteria	5	4	3	2	1	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All graphs and tables are referred to in the text to support the paper's argument 	Meets all criteria at high level		Meets some criteria; uneven		Meets few criteria, unclear	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The data used provide appropriate evidence for the argument • The data used are clearly explained 			
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4. The paper finds and presents appropriate, empirical studies from the academic literature.

Criteria	5	4	3	2	1	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a variety of up-to-date, reliable, and authoritative sources • The use of empirical studies demonstrates a good understanding of their methodology and conclusions 	Meets all criteria at high level		Meets some criteria; uneven		Meets few criteria, unclear	

5. Empirical studies from the academic literature are used effectively in support of the paper's argument

Criteria	5	4	3	2	1	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paper's argument makes explicit reference to the articles used • Quantitative evidence from the articles supports the paper's argument • The evidence from the articles used is clearly explained 	Meets all criteria at high level		Meets some criteria; uneven		Meets few criteria, unclear	

6. Overall, how well did this paper achieve this ILO?

Criteria	5	4	3	2	1	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will demonstrate the ability to find, interpret and utilize economic information and data (e.g. Find information on particular topics and issues in economics. • Locate published research in economics and related fields. • Locate economic data and data sources. Interpret numerical data found in published sources. 	Meets all criteria at high level		Meets some criteria; uneven		Meets few criteria, unclear	

- Identify patterns and trends in published data.)

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