

Section #8

Outline

1. Economic Literature Resources
2. Plagiarism: Group Activity
3. Term Paper: Group Activity

1 Economic Literature Resources

So by now hopefully you've started thinking about a topic for your term paper. If you're still working on one, I would suggest writing down one paragraph on two or three distinct topics for the term paper and then either ask me about each or try finding some additional sources on each topic to help you pick which one to pursue further. In this section, I've included links to useful sources for finding economic journal articles to help supplement your term paper. The first two links require access to the library proxy server. If you're unsure what that means check Piazza as I posted instructions prior to the deadline for the second problem set. As a general rule try to be specific with your searches. A search for "education" will turn up way to many articles for you to possibly browse through.

1. The Journal of Economic Perspectives: <http://oskicat.berkeley.edu/record=b13759140~S1>. This, as Professor Olney mentioned, is a journal meant to be written at a level that non-PhD economists can comprehend and is a great first stop for seeing what economists have written that might relate to your term paper. The link I've included is for an oskicat record, there are three links provided. The first takes you to the publisher's website and there you can search for any article written 1994 and onward. The second link takes you to JSTOR where you can search for any article in the JEP (starting 1987) until 2013 (2-year restriction online). The third link takes you to another search engine with full text access called *Business source complete* but I would recommend using either of the first two instead.
2. EconLit: <http://bit.ly/1DbZDZx>. This is an indexing and abstracting database for economics journal articles and is a centralized source for finding the authors, abstract, and title of journal articles written by economists related to your topic. The way to use this database is to find articles related to your topic, jot down the author(s), date, title, and journal and then download them directly either by searching for the journal's title in oskicat or using Google Scholar.
3. Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/>. This is a great tool if you know fairly precisely what you're looking for so as I mentioned above, I suggest using this engine after you already have the author(s), title, and journal of particular articles you're interested in reading.

2 Plagiarism Group Activity

With the term paper on the horizon, we thought this was a good time to highlight how to avoid bad referencing practices and potential plagiarism. This exercise is supposed to help you identify instances of plagiarism and help you learn to steer clear of common mistakes.

Your task:

- Divide the source material and article documents among your group members
- Spend a few minutes reading over the documents
- Each group will be responsible for a different section of the article
- As a group, highlight the sections of the article that you believe to be plagiarism as well as examples of bad referencing
- If you finish early then work on the other sections of the article
- At the end of the activity each group should hand in their annotated copy of the article
- We will compile the answers and post the solutions

3 Term Paper Group Activity

Individually, take the time to fill in each question and then as a group discuss each group member's answers and decide which person's answer you would like to share with the class.

1. Identify an appropriate contemporary issue (you will eventually want to select a published article on the issue, provide an overview of the article, and the argument and assumptions but for now brainstorm if you don't have an article selected yet).
2. Select a relevant historical episode (the episode must be relevant to the contemporary issue and you want to use an episode that will demonstrate Econ 113 knowledge).
3. Critically analyze historical episode (clearly identify similarities and differences between historical episode and the contemporary issue).

4. Explain how the past episode does (or does not) provide insight into the present (discuss what evidence past or present is needed to more confidently determine applicability of the past episode to present).