

## Economic Growth and Development Survey Paper

Due: April 28, 2012

**Overview:** This paper is designed to aid you in developing a deeper understanding of a topic within economic growth and/or economic development. In this paper, you will explore the economic literature and choose one topic which you wish to explore. A good survey paper identifies the relevant influential papers, organizes and summarizes the contributions in an easy to understand manner, and provides direction on how the literature is evolving.

**Identify:** You should identify the influential papers within the literature, e.g. academic journal articles, government agency publications and IMF/World Bank/UN/OCED/Central Banks papers and publications. There are several ways to accomplish this goal. One such way is to use Google Scholar<sup>®</sup>. You can search key words relevant to your topic and look at the number of times a particular article has been cited and its age. This gives an indication of its influence, but this method is not perfect. More recent papers will tend to have relatively low numbers of citations when compared to older papers, but recent papers may still be very important. For example, a 20 year old paper with 50 citations is probably not a particularly influential paper. By the same token, a 2011 paper with 50 citations may very well be a paper which is shaping our understanding of this topic. Be aware that your particular topic may be relatively narrow. As a result, the number of citations will be lower regardless of the paper's age/influence within the topic area.

You should include current papers (within the last 10 years) along with older papers (more than 10 years). You may also include descriptive publications/reports (hint: these might be helpful for framing the topic in the introduction). However, your focus should be on papers and studies which define a research question.

**Organize:** Once you have identified the relevant papers in the literature, you will want to organize them in a logical fashion. You are building a narrative. Each paper should relate to the previous paper. It is often times best to sort your papers into different categories. For example, if you are looking at the effects of HIV on growth in Sub-Saharan Africa, you may want to sort your papers into the following categories: documentation of HIV trends in Sub-Saharan Africa (you might want this in your introduction), Demographic Effects, Labor Market Effects, Foreign Direct Investment Effects, etc. Within each category, you may want to present your work in chronological order. Remember the flow will be important. It should be clear how our understanding of this topic has progressed to today from your ordering.

**Summarize:** You should summarize the papers in an easy to understand manner. Your goal is twofold. First, summarize a paper such that it is clear how this paper fits into and contributes to the literature. One way to do this is to let the reader know the research question, how the author(s) went about answering it, and what contributions are made. I realize this can be difficult and potentially daunting for some technical papers. However, the influential papers tend to have very good intuition behind the methodology. Read the introductions and conclusions carefully, they should provide you the context to understand the methods. Second, weave the papers together such that it is clear how they are related. Papers in a particular literature often times build on each other, you will want to show how they are connected.

**Provide Direction:** Once you have surveyed your topic, you should have some insights into the future of this literature, i.e. what are the unanswered questions. In your discussion, detail one possible feasible senior thesis question related to your topic. Explain why this is an interesting question, how you would be able to answer this question, and what sort of data would you need.

Don't skimp on this part. I expect a well thought idea. It should be something that is **potentially** feasible, i.e. the data already exists but need not be publically available. You should also discuss what sort of empirical or theoretical model might be helpful in answering your research question.

**Layout/Expectations:** Your paper should have the traditional sections: Introduction, Literature Review, Discussion, and Conclusion. It should contain approximately than 8-10 pages of 1.5 spaced text, not including any tables or figures in either MLA or APA format. You should include at least 10 references from academic journals, government reports and IMF/World Bank/UN/OCED/Central Banks papers or reports.

As always, I'm happy to answer any questions you might have regarding the paper. Good Luck!