

ECO 313 SWS WRITING ASSIGNMENT

RESEARCH AND WRITING ASSIGNMENT: BUSINESS CYCLES AND GROWTH

Purpose of SWS: The purpose of the SWS assignment, as a part of ECO 313, is to understand, analyze, and develop the ability to write on real world macroeconomic issues, using the knowledge you have acquired in this class.

ECO 313 SWS Goals:

After successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. demonstrate an effective writing process,
2. identify the strengths and weaknesses of your own writing processes,
3. analyze the writing of a peer-reviewed article: identifying the author's target audience, purpose, tone, context, and the ways the textual form and style achieves its function.

This course will teach you to write an extended research paper. I will teach you to locate peer-reviewed scholarship on a topic, summarize articles, narrow a topic to a debatable question, paraphrase scholars' viewpoints, introduce and analyze direct quotations, use economic models and big data sets to conduct your empirical/theoretical analysis, and support your own standpoint. At least 4 hours of class time will be devoted to studying the form and function of research papers, moving from topics to questions, doing the literature review, conducting the economic analysis, reporting research results, organizing support for your own viewpoint, and writing the paper.

GVSU SWS Goals:

Please refer to the University website for the University SWS Program Goals:

<https://www.gvsu.edu/sws/program-goals-46.htm>

SWS Statement: This course is designated SWS. Completion of WRT 150 with a grade of C or better (not C-) is a prerequisite. SWS credit will not be given to a student who completes this course before completing the prerequisite. SWS courses adhere to certain guidelines. Students turn in a total of at least 3000 words of writing. Part of that total may be essay exams, but a substantial amount of it is made up of essays, reports, or research papers. The instructor works with the students on revising drafts of papers, rather than simply grading the finished piece of writing. At least one third of the final grade in the course is based on the writing assignments.

SWS Assignment: The writing assignment will require you to gather information and/or data on specific economic events or phenomena, and use the analytical skill-set you have acquired in the course to evaluate those events or phenomena, and then present your analysis in a well-organized paper. The paper should contain 3000 words (about 10-12 pages in length). Content as well as clarity of writing are important, and I will evaluate both when grading the assignment. The writing assignment is worth 35% of your overall grade. We will break the process into parts. You will submit two drafts. The first draft is worth 10% of your grade and the final is worth 25%, for a total of 35%. Each draft must be complete, well written and proofread by the author. I will provide feedback for the first draft and you will work on improving the assignment, and submit a final draft. If you choose not to submit the first draft, you automatically qualify for a zero on your whole report. If you choose to submit the first draft but not the final draft, your score on the first draft remains valid, but you will get a zero on your final draft. The first draft of the writing assignment must be submitted in **HARDCOPY ONLY** at the beginning of class on the due date. Reports sent by emails will not count. The final draft of the writing assignment must be submitted in HARDCOPY and ONLINE (ON BLACKBOARD) on the due date (there will be a penalty of 5% if either version is missing). Late assignments will not be accepted or graded unless there is an extenuating circumstance that I am notified of prior to the due date. Due dates for the writing assignments are provided in this document. This SWS rubric is also uploaded on Blackboard.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING THE RESEARCH PAPER

A. TOPIC

For your research paper you must select any one of the following two topics below:

1. Economic Growth, Emerging Market Economies, and Advanced Economies (ref: Chapter 4, and Chapter 6)
2. Housing Bubble: Causes, Consequences and Prevention (ref: Chapter 7, Chapter 8, and Chapter 14)

You will need to gather information and data on your chosen topic, use the analytical skill-set you have acquired in the course to examine the economic issue/phenomena, and then present your analysis in a well-organized paper. Choose the topic that genuinely interests you because you do not want to be bored writing the paper.

B. FORMAT

As mentioned earlier, we will devote class timings to understanding and writing the research paper. In particular, I will teach you to narrow down the research topic and form a plausible research question, do the literature review with correct citation, use theoretical economic models and empirical data sets to conduct your analysis, report your research results and draw conclusions, and make policy recommendations that holds for a better macroeconomic performance of the country.

Please feel free to ask questions about any part of your project. Please feel free to either meet the econ tutor or meet me during my office hours, should you need more help with your SWS paper. Please do not miss class.

Your completed paper should cover the following items and sections mentioned below.

The first page should include the following:

Title of the Paper:

Author (your name):

Abstract of the paper:

From the second page onward, please follow the order as given below:

I. Introduction (around 1 page)

This section should first clearly state your research question. You should explain the motivation, and the significance of the issue you are studying. What motivates you to study this issue? Why should we (or the government of X) care?

II. Literature Review (around 2 pages)

The purpose of a Literature Review is to offer an overview of significant literature published on a topic. Literature reviews comprises the following elements:

- a) An overview of the subject, issue or theory under consideration, along with the objectives of the literature review
- b) Division of works under review into categories (e.g. those in support of a particular position, those against, and those offering alternative theses entirely)
- c) Explanation of how each work is similar to and how it varies from the others
- d) Conclusions as to which pieces are best considered in their argument, are most convincing of their opinions, and make the greatest contribution to the understanding and development of their area of research

In this section you should give a brief literature review i.e. find materials relevant to the subject being explored. Find 5 articles related to the issue you are studying, and summarize their work in your own words. Copying and pasting will result in 0 point for the question. Do not copy and paste from previous authors' work. Formulate your own thoughts and summarize in your own words in sentences, not bullet points. You must cite all the articles in the text in proper APA format. Your literature review should be able to address the following questions: Did the authors study this or a similar issue before? What are their main findings? What are the evidence in favor of the issue you are studying? Are there any contrary findings/arguments? Is there any gap in the literature? You must be able to show the reader that you know the literature: *"Yes, I am aware of so-and-so's results on this topic."*

III. Analysis and Results (around 4 pages)

In this section, you must analyze the macroeconomic issue using tools and concepts learnt in this course. You must use economic models and specific data sets to conduct your empirical/theoretical analysis.¹ You should report and summarize your main findings. What are your main findings? How do your analysis/findings differ from or coincide with the findings of others? Be sure to use your results as evidence to support your arguments. What policy recommendations would you make and why? Make sure that your findings and recommendations are consistent with your evidence.

IV. Conclusion (around 1 page)

Summarize your findings. You need to convince the reader that you addressed the issue you wanted to study and that you have important findings/recommendations. Make sure that your conclusions are consistent with your analysis.

V. References (around 2 pages)

You must create a separate reference list of all the articles/data (you have used for your research) in proper APA format. List all external information in a section of 'References' at the end of the paper conforming to APA style.

C. FORMAT (ADDITIONAL)

- I. All external information must be cited in the text in APA format. For data, indicate the source. For articles or documents, cite them according to APA.
- II. Take care to make these graphs "professional" looking: Add appropriate titles, legends and labels. Choose appropriate size fonts. If you are printing in black-and-white, make sure the format allows the reader to distinguish between the different lines and bars. Do not simply download pre-made graphs from the internet. You are required to create all graphs yourself using Excel.
- III. The entire report should be written in Times New Roman style, font size 12, double spaced for the text, with 1 inch margins.

¹I will teach you how to use economic models and datasets to conduct empirical/theoretical research.

ECO 313 SWS WRITING ASSIGNMENT

D. GRADING RUBRIC

Following are the main criteria that will be used to grade your paper. Please read them carefully and make sure that your writing assignment speaks to all four traits listed below.

1. Clarity, Organization, and Tone (30%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Does the student clearly state her/his research question and motivate the topic?➤ How well does the student communicate her/his ideas?➤ Are arguments and conclusions clearly stated, and arranged logically?➤ Can the reader follow the students' reasoning?➤ Do paragraphs and sections flow well together, and are clearly linked?➤ Is the paper well organized and professionally written?➤ Is the tone consistently professional and appropriate for audience?➤ Does the writing in any way obscure meaning and distract the reader?
2. Literature Review, Citation, and References (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Is the literature review relevant to the particular issue being studied?➤ Does the literature review effectively summarize and/or critically evaluate the work in the research area?➤ Has the work been properly cited in the text (main body of the paper) in APA style?➤ Is a complete reference list (in APA format) presented?
3. Content, and Analysis (40%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ How well does the student understand the topic?➤ Does the student understand the main issues involved?➤ Does the student utilize concepts, models, and analytical techniques studied in the class to explain the issue?➤ Does the student use relevant data in her/his analysis?➤ Are all sources of evidence clearly and fairly presented?➤ Are the arguments and conclusions supported/backed by the 'presented evidence'?➤ Does the student present her/his own analysis or interpretations?
4. Format, Mechanics, and Others (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Does the student follow the exact format explained in this document (see section B, pp 2)?➤ Are tables and figures properly labeled with sources provided?➤ Are there any spelling or grammar errors?

E. OTHER SUGGESTIONS

The Fred Meijer Center for Writing, with locations at the Allendale and Pew/Downtown Grand Rapids campuses, is a peer service available to assist you with writing for any of your classes. Writing consultants, who are fellow GVSU students, are trained to help you with all stages of your writing process, from brainstorming to organizing to editing your papers. Simply bring an idea, prompt, or draft of your paper along with the assignment sheet to any of the Center's locations. In addition, through your Gmail account, you have access to online consultations through Google Docs. The Center's services are free and you can drop in and work with a consultant or make an appointment, either through our website or by calling the Center (331-2922). Peer support is available for research and speech/presentation through the Knowledge Market, where the Writing Center collaborates with the Speech Lab and the Peer Research Center. Additional information about the Knowledge Market and Writing Center services and locations can be found on our website. Following are some important suggestions.

I. Literature Review

1. Evaluate the different sources of information to understand the difference between good and bad sources. Go to the following links.

<http://libguides.gvsu.edu/eco210/periodicals>

<http://libguides.gvsu.edu/c.php?g=108420&p=702393>

<http://libguides.gvsu.edu/c.php?g=108420&p=702143>

The links above will direct you to the different criteria used to evaluate sources of information, such as websites, periodical articles, and books. Read the important criteria to evaluate sources, and use only reliable sources for your literature review.

2. Refer to this link below and watch the videos on database searching.
<http://libguides.gvsu.edu/eco210/databases>
3. For database search, refer to the library's homepage: www.gvsu.edu/library and go to "Databases". The most commonly used data sources for econ research are:
 - a) ABI/INFORM
 - b) EconLit
 - c) JSTOR

II. Analysis

You can obtain data from the following websites:

1. the Federal Reserve
<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/tags/series?t=usa&rt=usa&ob=pv&od=desc>
<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/categories/33100>
2. the Bureau of Economic Analysis
www.bea.gov
3. the Bureau of Labor Statistics
www.bls.gov
4. International Monetary Fund
www.imf.org
5. World Bank
www.worldbank.org

III. Citation

1. The library has links to style guides for APA format located at <https://libguides.gvsu.edu/citations/APAstyle>
2. The Purdue University Guide (OWL) is a good one, the link is here: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

SWS Requirement and Agreement

I have read this document. I understand the Supplementary Writing Skills program goals and requirements of the University and the Economics department at Grand Valley. I shall adhere to the guidelines.

Name: _____

ECO 313 Section Number: _____

Date: _____