

EC307 - Policy Paper

1 Policy Paper

A key requirement for the course is the submission of a short policy paper, on a topic of your choice. Policy papers should be directed at the analysis of current policy options rather than historical decisions, and should therefore be forward-looking. Conclusions will generally be based on both empirical and theoretical arguments, and should be written at a level of sophistication appropriate for someone outside of economics. We will discuss the detailed structure of the paper in class. When looking for topics, the popular media is often a good place to start but if you need help, please ask.

All submissions must be made using the Drop Box system in My Learning Space. If you have any technical problems with My Learning Space, please contact MyLS@wlu.ca first.

1.1 Proposal - January 21st, 8am

This should be 200-250 words in length, ask a specific policy question, and an explanation of why **you** think the question is interesting. This is not graded, but must be approved prior to the submission of the first draft. Proposals that are unacceptable, for any reason, will be returned with comments as soon as possible. These must then be resubmitted by January 28th at 8am. Late proposals (for either deadline) will result in a 10% deduction per day from the overall paper grade.

Due to the large quantity of submissions received each year, it is necessary that students follow some convention for filenames. As such the filename must include your name, EC307 Proposal, and the date (including year). Example - "Ken Jackson - EC307 Proposal - 2011 Jan 20.doc"

1.2 First Draft - February 14th, 8am

The first draft must be submitted via Drop Box by February 14th at 8am. Your paper will not likely be complete, though I expect a minimum of 3-4 pages (750 words). It is OK for some sections to be incomplete and/or in note form. Minor topic changes from the proposal are expected, though any significant change must be approved by the instructor. Please e-mail me if you are unsure.

Again, filenames should include your name, EC307 Draft 1, and the date. Example - "Ken Jackson - EC307 Draft 1 - 2011 Feb 12 - .doc"

1.3 Peer-Editing 1 - February 18th, 4pm

After each draft is submitted, there will be a round of peer-editing. Each person that submits a paper will receive two papers back for you to comment on. Editing comments should offer *constructive* suggestions related to:

1. Content - alternative explanations, complementary data, etc.
2. Writing Quality - organizational suggestions, clarity of arguments, grammar, spelling, etc.

Editing comments must be completed via Track Changes in Word, or the equivalent, and submitted via the DropBox system with the editors name added to the end of the filename. Example - “Ken Jackson - EC307 Draft 1 - 2011 Feb 12 - edited by John Doe.doc”

1.4 Second Draft - March 14th, 8am

You are required to submit a second draft by March 14th, at 8am. Your paper should have taken its final form and should be at least 6 pages long (1500 words), but there may still be sections that are in note form, or elements that are not complete. Any topic change at this stage must be approved by the instructor via e-mail.

Again, filenames should include your name, EC307 Draft 2, and the date. Example - “Ken Jackson - EC307 Draft 2 - 2011 Mar 13.doc”

1.5 Peer-Editing 2 - March 18th, 4pm

Each person that submits a second draft will again receive two papers for editing. These will be different from those in round 1. For full marks, editing comments must again focus on both content and writing quality. As before, editing comments must be completed via Track Changes in Word, or the equivalent, and submitted via the DropBox system with the editors name added to the end of the filename. Example - “Ken Jackson - EC307 Draft 2 - 2011 Mar 13 - edited by John Doe.doc”

1.6 Final Paper - due April 6th, 8am

The final paper should be 2000-3000 words, or roughly 8-12 pages long. Remember, longer is not better. Learn to make your point concisely. The key to a strong policy paper is providing a well-supported argument in support of a well-defined course of action. No topic changes will be approved after the second draft, as this would defeat the purpose of the peer-editing exercise.

Filenames for final papers should include your name, EC307, the date, and the title of the paper. Example: “Ken Jackson - EC307 - 2011 Apr 4 - Urbanization and Poverty in Ghana”