



45001 - U.S. Seminar in Business, Law, and Economic Policy

incl. Excursion to Georgetown University and New York University

Formal Requirements for the Seminar Paper

A clear and logical structure is essential for a scientific paper. Depending on the research topic, a different structure might seem more appropriate. This is to give you an idea of what is expected.

Your paper could typically consist of the following subsections:

1. Introduction	Why is the topic relevant? Present research question, main results and structure of paper.
2. Background, Facts, Literature	Definitions, some facts, some cases. What has been found by others? Existing literature.
3. Theory, Methodology	Introduce the theory that may help you to answer the question, derive hypotheses; introduce empirical methodology if the paper is mainly empirical. Introduce hypothesis and data.
4. Analysis	This is your main contribution: answer the question using Section 3. Introduce precise data or qualitative information, results, discussion and interpretation.
5. Conclusion	Short Summary of your paper. Limitation of own analysis, further steps to be done in future

Have a look at a paper in a recent edition of the *American Economic Review*. If you more or less stick to this, you will be fine. Here are some **principles** that are particularly important:

- Font: 12 pt., Line spacing: 1.5
- Number of pages: in general content matters more than size, but we expect something like 15-20 pages (excluding appendix), not more.
- Page numbering: Bottom in the middle.
- Labelling of images and tables: continuously, include them in the text, provide source.
- Principle of citations: *AER* (or another journal in economics).
- Your paper has to include a table of contents and a bibliography. Provide the title of the paper, your name, student number, the date, the title of the master seminar and an abstract with 100 words on your front page.