

Paper Evaluation

Objective: Does the title give a clear indication of the subject to be discussed? Is the objective of the paper clear? Is it asking a clear question that can be feasibly answered? Is there a reasonable scope for the space avail, or is it too broad or too narrow in coverage?

Introduction:

Does the introduction lay out a clear plan for answering the question? Do they have a clear hypothesis and line of argument to address it?

Research:

Literature:

Does the paper use an objective, academic stance in reviewing the evidence and considering counter-arguments and critics seriously, rather than a subjective, emotional one? Does the paper adequately incorporate class materials (readings, lectures)? Does the paper contain a basic literature review relevant to the question? Does the paper show strong knowledge of the historical, political and economic context? Are assertions backed by evidence? Does the author create an original analysis around the evidence and avoid cut-and-paste approaches? Has the author used books and bona fide academic articles, as opposed to potentially biased and inaccurate internet sources? Have they shown the effort to master the knowledge needed to address the issue at hand?

Historical/Logical Analysis:

Does the paper move towards an original and clear view, organizing the evidence to answer a particular question, and away from a cut-and-paste approach?

Data Analysis:

Does the paper use primary statistical and qualitative event data to answer the question? Are the data reliable and used appropriately for interpretation of the q.? Are any key data missing?

Conclusion:

Does the paper contain a clear conclusion that comes naturally from the literature review, evidence, and logical analysis? Are there clear recommendations/results from the analysis? Does the conclusion have a clear recommendation that is feasible and politically pragmatic?

Writing

Is the paper formatted professionally? Any spelling or grammar errors? Any problems with style? Does the author use an economy of words, avoiding repetition? Does the author use an active as opposed to a passive voice?

Do the different parts of the paper flow together to answer the question? Is the analysis well-embedded with the interpretation? Is the paper appropriately written for the audience (an expert)?

Grade:

Late Penalty:

Final Grade w/Penalty