

POL222 Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning I

Essay Assignment 2 Marking Rubric

Evaluation Components	Evaluation Criteria	Points Allocated
1. Theory (20 points)	(1) Substantive importance of research question and theory is explained well and convincing.	0 - 5
	(2) Independent and dependent variables are clearly defined. Theoretical mechanism linking these two variables is elaborated clearly and convincing. The hypothesis is appropriate in light of the theory in question, testable based on observables, and well defined.	0 - 15
2. Empirical Research Design (60 points)	(1) Research design of the empirical test is specific and clearly articulated. It is also appropriate in order to test the hypothesis you proposed.	0 - 30
	(2) How the empirical research addresses or cannot address the potential problems of reverse causality (or simultaneity) and confounding variables is well addressed, and the argument is convincing. If the empirical research design does not fully address these issues, the limitation of the research design and specific cautions and reservations needed for readers of your research are discussed and the argument is convincing.	0 - 30
3. Writing (20 points)	<p>The essay is well organized and well written overall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a clear argument easily identified and understood. - Has a concise yet informative introduction and conclusion. - Maintains consistency, coherency, and natural flow throughout. - Has a sophisticated writing style. - Has few typographical or grammatical errors. - Is accurately and fully documented (e.g., footnotes, reference, citations) wherever needed. 	0 - 20

- For each evaluation criterion above, your essay will be marked in the following scale — Excellent, Good, Adequate, Marginal, and Inadequate — and the points proportional to the points allocated to each criterion will be assigned. For example, for the criterion for which 0 - 10 points are allocated, your essay will receive 10 points if your mark is Excellent, 8 points if Good, 6 points if Adequate, 4 if Marginal, and 2 if Inadequate. Similarly, for the criterion for which 0 - 20 points are allocated, your essay will receive 20 points if your mark is Excellent, 16 points if Good, 12 if Adequate, 8 if Marginal, and 4 if Inadequate. If your essay hardly addresses the evaluation criterion, your essay will receive 0 point for that criterion.
- 10 points will be deducted if in violation of any of the requirements, specified in the Essay Assignment Instructions, such as exceeding the word limit, proposing two or more hypotheses, and using a causal theory from our textbook or lectures.