

June 2010 Final Writing Rubric for Economics

Key terms, concepts and theories in economics	Demonstrates a correct and sophisticated understanding of economic terms, concepts and/or theory, and uses them to approach and analyze a problem.	Uses economic terms, concepts and theory to approach and analyze a problem, incompletely and sometimes with errors.	Rarely uses economic vocabulary and theory; mistakes are frequent.	Does not use economic vocabulary or theory.
Discipline perspectives	With accuracy and nuance, situates the discussion within perspectives and methodologies in economics.	Introduces a broader context of perspectives and methodologies with some degree of confidence.	Makes an attempt to situate the topic within economic perspectives, but the attempt is awkward and incomplete.	Shows no awareness of perspectives or methodologies within economics.
Structure of an empirical paper	Follows the conventional structure of scholarly papers in economics: articulates a research question and methodology within the context of the existing literature; discusses sources and characteristics of data; presents and discusses results; proposes further areas of study and/or policy conclusions.	Follows the conventional structure of scholarly papers, but some elements are perfunctory and lack sophistication.	Multiple elements of a conventional empirical paper are missing or incomplete.	Paper's structure is incoherent; existing literature, data, methods or results are not discussed.
Visual presentation of information	Where appropriate, includes informative, readable, concise figures and/or tables; confidently discusses their key elements to enrich the paper's argument.	Figures and tables are informative but sometimes hard to follow or contain excessive information. They are sometimes discussed in the text.	May include figures/and or tables, but they are confusing or are inadequately discussed in the text.	Figures and tables are absent, unintelligible, or distracting.
Documentation	Cites sources fully and correctly, following an appropriate convention such as the Chicago Manual of Style.	Cites sources, but occasional information is missing or format is inappropriate.	Makes an attempt to cite sources, but substantial information is missing and format is inappropriate.	Citations and sources are necessary but absent.

