

Outline of a Progress Report

The main purpose of the progress report is to get you to read papers from the existing literature which are relevant to your research question (and, in a sense, *all* papers are relevant!), and describe the lessons you learned from each paper which will help you in your research.

To wit, I want you to prepare a 7-10 page progress report with the following template.

You must read *three* existing papers. For each, describe:

- *Why* you chose those papers (any answer is fine, including just natural curiosity!) Papers read in other classes are fine also; the point is just to get you to *draw connections* between any given paper and your research.
- Summarize the paper briefly: is it a theoretical or empirical paper; what type of models or econometric tools are used; the main results, etc.
- Rate the paper on a scale of 1 to 10 and describe why. The point is to be *discriminating*: is the paper good? is it useful?
- List *three lessons* that you learned, which will be useful for you in your research (or which you wish to try out in your research). Be as precise as possible: most of the challenges in doing good research consist in just mixing and matching tools from the existing literature!

In the last section of the progress report, sum up your research to date: What is your research question? What model are you going to use (I encourage you to write down equations to answer this question)? What data are you going to use (if your project is empirical)?