

1. You want to entice the reader to continue reading. Here you might use an interesting quote, or create an interesting scenario. Make your reader want to read on and understand the issue.
2. You need to have a thesis statement that tells your reader what the paper will be about and what your main point is. This is sometimes followed by a brief outline of the paper and its organization.

Do not use rhetorical questions, especially in the introduction. For example, do not write: "Have you ever wondered why the sky is blue? I know I have." Instead, the introduction should contain background information about the research topic.

Do not assume that your reader is part of our class in any way. Imagine that your reader is someone who is not familiar with the subject at all, and you need to explain everything to them without using too much economic jargon.

I. What is the Issue: Why should I care about the wage gap?

- 10% of overall paper grade

Grade _____

Here you need to define the issue. What is a wage gap? Is it a problem to our economy? Why or why not? Is it something that we need to use public policy to attempt to fix?

You need to use information that we discussed in class and cite authors explicitly.

II. Using Local and National Data to Describe the Wage Gap

- 20% of overall paper grade

Grade _____

Create the graph

Discuss the graph explicitly, explaining the information from the national Census data.

Discuss data and information gathered from the local survey.

In this section you need to explicitly discuss numbers and what they mean. Assume your reader has no knowledge of the topic or how to measure it, or what the numbers mean.

At minimum, you need to include the following information in your final draft:

How many individuals are in the data set? How many are men? How many are women? Is there a wage difference between men and women? Is there a wage difference between WORKING men and women (here you will want to differentiate between working full time—35 hours per week or more—and part time). How many men work full time? How many women work full time?

In addition, you might want to include relevant information that will *further your specific argument*. For example, if you are making the argument that the wage gap doesn't exist, or that it is just due to measurement error, you might want to include some relevant statistics here that you can rely on in your discussion.

III. Explaining the Wage Gap Using Economic Theory

- 25% of overall paper grade

Grade _____

For this part of the paper, you will have already chosen an argument that you think is the best argument for why the wage gap exists or doesn't exist. Now, you need to test your theory using the local data.

For example, one theory says that men have more human capital than women. Since human capital is an indicator of productivity, then if men have more human capital, they should earn higher wages for the same work. We can proxy human capital by exploring the number of years of schooling, the type of schooling and the number of years of experience. For example, if men have more experience in the labor market, they should earn higher wages.

In this section, you would want to explain that theory, then use the data to "test" to see if you are correct. Be explicit about what you are doing and what you expect from the test in order to prove your point, then present your results. Did the data show what you expected? Why or why not?

IV. Policy Recommendation

- 10% of overall paper grade

Grade _____

Here you should present policies that could be implemented to fix the wage gap (if you think it needs to be fixed). Make sure that your ideas here follow with your entire paper's arguments. If you think that the wage gap is caused by differences in human capital, for example, make sure that your policy relates to that.

V. Conclusion

- 10% of overall paper grade

Grade _____

A. Conclusion

Summarize your main logical arguments in the paper. **No new information should appear here.**

VI. List of References

- 5% of overall paper grade

Grade _____

Provide an alphabetized bibliography of all sources you cite in your paper, including those in the Source(s) of Data Section, and any sources you use in the Introduction and the Literature Review sections. You must use proper bibliographic notation. See: [Murphy Library Citation Guide to citing sources of information](#). The library includes citation generators - with prominent warnings - on its "[Citation Guides](#)" web page. The Citation Guides page is available in the "How To" section of the library home page, and is directly accessible at www.uwlax.edu/murphylibrary/citations.html

*****The citation for the dataset is:

Bond, J. Galinsky, E., & Swanberg, J. 1997. *The National Study of the Changing Workforce*. New York, NY: The Families and Work Institute.

GRAMMAR & OTHER STYLISTIC CONVENTIONS

- 10% of overall paper grade Grade _____

1. Paper is:

clear - Clarity can be achieved using concrete, specific words; short, well-organized paragraphs, most of which begin with a topic sentence; coherent organization.

coherent - If a message is well organized and contains well-chosen words, including necessary and appropriate transitional words, phrases, and paragraphs, it will be coherent.

complete - The report must be complete in that it answers fully all the reader's questions and gives all the needed or desired information. A report must fulfill its stated purpose which is stated in the introduction. In addition, unclear, inexact words such as "unfair", "a lot", "many" should be defined.

concise - Your report avoids unnecessary repetition, rambling, wordy phrases, and long, complicated words and phrases. Use simple direct wording.

"It may seem unscientific and even unfair, but a poor final report or presentation can destroy a study. Research technicians may appreciate the brilliance of badly reported content, but most readers will be influenced by the quality of the reporting. This fact should prompt researchers to make special efforts to communicate clearly and fully." (Cooper and Schindler, *Business Research Methods*, 1998).

2. Paper is free of typographical mistakes/spelling errors.

3. Paper contains citations in footnotes or in parentheses in paper.

4. APPEARANCE: Paper is visually pleasing, professional, with each section labeled. .

5. Paper contains a title that reflects the paper's subject.