

Feedback on written assignments

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Question 1: What are the "take-aways" of the papers?

- Be careful that you summarize the results correctly
- Avoid being vague: do not just state the topic or the question
- Write the concrete main result (for example where and when?)
⇒ The paper itself probably does not claim a universal truth
- Direction of effect!

Question 1: Why are they (take-aways) important?

- Do not just repeat or list findings here!
- At least write why the topic is important (usually found in the very first paragraphs of the paper)
- Contribution may be argued in the very beginning or the end of intro, sometimes even in the abstract

Question 2: **Key simplifying/identifying assumptions?**

- What lets the authors interpret their results in a causal way?
⇒ **Identification assumptions related to a method and about unobservables!**
- Do not list the hypotheses the authors make or the results
- Do not list what the authors do in the paper
- Do not write about data or how they construct the variables
- Be precise: "No other factors affecting outcome" is vague and probably implausible ⇒ **Compared to what?**
- Be precise: "Should be the same" ⇒ **Only if affecting outcome? Only in the absence of treatment? Should only evolve similarly?**

Question 2: Do **you** find these **assumptions** reasonable? Why (not)?

- Write about whether **assumptions** reasonable and give reasons for why
- Use the word "I" \Rightarrow If your sentences start by "the authors" or are in passive, it is very hard to separate what is your opinion
- Do not write about results
- Do not write about data or how they construct the variables
- Do not write your opinion about something else than the identifying assumptions

Question 3: In what respect do the papers **contradict and/or complement** each other?

- Make it explicit whether you think the papers complement or contradict each other (or both)
- Similarities and differences are not exactly the same as complementing or contradicting
- Do not plagiarize!

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