

14.11 SPRING 2006
PUTTING SOCIAL SCIENCE TO THE TEST—FIELD EXPERIMENTS IN ECONOMICS
ASSIGNMENT # 8

Final Paper
Due on Tuesday May 18, 2006

The outline of your final paper should be as follows:

1. Introduction/Motivation of the question, followed by a brief preview of your results
2. Literature review and how your paper relates to the literature
3. Description of your experimental design
4. Specific hypotheses that you intended to test (e.g., our hypothesis is that, due to the manipulation of X, treated subjects will do significantly more of Y than control subjects)
5. Summary statistics of your data
6. Analytic framework: What statistical comparisons (usually regression models) you use to test the hypotheses in (4)
7. Results and discussion of the results
8. Interpretation of your findings in light of your hypotheses.
9. Conclusion: What did you learn and what further research should be conducted to gain additional insight on the phenomenon under study.

You may incorporate relevant parts of the previous assignments, provided that you weave them together with logical arguments and deft transitions.

Your tables should look like the tables from the published papers we have been reading for the class. Please make sure that all tables and figures are in a “publishable” format and that they include all relevant information, such as number of observations, standard errors or T-ratios (be sure you tell us which you are tabulating!), and R-squared statistics if relevant. The table notes at the bottom of each table should specify the dependent variable and clarify any independent variables if they are not self-evident from the table (i.e., without aid of the text of the paper).

In your table(s) of descriptive statistics, please be sure to provide comparisons (if possible) between treated and control subjects on dimensions that should not have been affected by the experimental intervention, such as gender, major, test scores, etc. (of course, you may not have these data).

Your final paper should have a length of 10-15 pages of text plus tables and figures.