

***What the report should look like***

First of all, this is a report, not a homework assignment. Each section must be written as a narrative document, *not* as a series of answers to prompts. Include relevant tables and graphs in order to *illustrate* your verbal analysis, but the tables and graphs may never *replace* your verbal analysis. References for the entire document should be presented in a bibliography at the end. (You may separate data references from document references if you wish, but both must be present.)

***Audience***

Although I will probably be the primary reader of the document, you should aim it at an intelligent reader without extensive background in macroeconomics. For example, when you talk about the relationship between inflation and monetary growth using the quantity theory, explain in a couple of sentences what the theory tells us to expect in the data. This will reassure me that you understand the theory and understand the purpose of the data analysis that follows. And you can then follow up with a discussion of whether your data support the theory strongly, weakly with exceptions, or not at all (and, in the latter cases, why you think this is true).

***Revisions of previous reports***

Your final report for the project should include updated versions of all of the reports you have submitted during the semester, except the data report. (Details of the sources of data should be in an appendix.) You should submit the set of spreadsheets you used for calculations in case I need to refer to them and/or verify how some of your numbers were calculated, but I hope that I will not even have to open them. To reiterate, the reader must be able to read the narrative and understand your argument and conclusions without reference to the spreadsheets.

The introductory chapter that you wrote in the first part of the semester should be revised to reflect the results of your subsequent analyses. It should serve as an introduction to the entire document, summarizing the history and structural characteristics of the country's macroeconomy, identifying key points about the recent behavior of central macroeconomic variables, and leading into the analysis that follows.

***Final Chapter: Conclusion, present situation analysis, and forecast***

In addition to updating your previous work, you should add a substantive concluding chapter that includes each of the following:

- A brief summary of the high points of your analysis, tying them into the historical and analytical introductory chapter with which you began your study.
- An analysis of the *present situation* in your country in light of your analysis. What is the current situation in terms of growth, business cycles, unemployment, inflation, trade, and government finance? Which of these seem problematic and which are satisfactory (or even better)?
- A qualitative *forecast* for the next five years. You may draw on forecasts that you find elsewhere (OECD, IMF, or other ProQuest sources, for example), but the emphasis in your conclusion should be on *why* the economy is likely to follow the forecasted path, not just a simple extrapolation of recent data. For example, the following kinds of sentences would be highly appropriate would be:
  - “The Utopian economy is near the end of a long recession and should complete its recovery over the next five years, with unemployment falling back to the natural rate of 8%.”
  - “As shown in Figure 1, the World Bank predicts lackluster growth for Utopia over the next five years. I agree/disagree with this assessment because ...”
  - “Inflation in Utopia has been restrained, but may accelerate over the next five years as ...”
  - “Utopia has a looming problem with its high level of government debt and its large trade deficit. These figures will need to return toward balance over the next five years to avoid a possible crisis. The policies that would be necessary to support this are ...”
- Your forecast should also discuss significant *uncertainties* facing the economy in the coming years. For example, if your country is heavily influenced by oil prices, geopolitical events, or economic conditions in other countries, you should identify these uncertainties, what alternative outcomes are possible, and how they might affect your economy. For example:
  - “Utopia’s future depends heavily on movements in the world price of pickles, its major export. If pickle prices were to be lower than expected, this would ...”
  - “The unstable political situation in Utopia is worrisome. Should the radical left-wing Green Utopian party win the election expected in 2015, the government budget deficit could be much larger. This would cause ...”