

## **8,462 International Competition Policy**

### **Paper Outline**

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This document describes how you should write up a 2-3 page outline of your paper for this course.

The suggestions below are very detailed and reflect Professor Evenett's experience in commissioning research at the World Bank. (The main point here is that papers that were better thought out at the beginning with a detailed outlines tended to be completed on time and to a high standard. Brief, unstructured, and incomplete outlines tend to take longer to implement and reflect inadequate thinking at the start of the project. To summarise: time spent now on detailed outlines helps reduce the time spent later on the project.)

Each outline, which will probably be 2-3 pages in length, should include:

1. The proposed title of the paper.
2. An abstract of no more than 300 words.
3. The name of the author and email address.
4. A list of the proposed sections of the paper.
5. A detailed account of the likely substance of the paper (see below for further guidance.)

As far as the substance of each paper is concerned, each paper outline should:

1. State the major research question or questions to be addressed in the paper. Secondary research questions should also be listed. This will help define the scope of your paper. It is perfectly legitimate to state any matters your paper will not be addressing.
2. Briefly describe the importance of the research question and its potential relevance to policymakers.
3. Briefly describe the departure from any relevant existing literature. Please be sure to check the major working paper series that can be found on the web, including those at [ssrn.com](http://ssrn.com), [cepr.org](http://cepr.org), [nber.org](http://nber.org), etc.
4. List the hypotheses that the paper will examine.
5. Describe the method of analysis to be employed and any steps you will be taking to counter the drawbacks of the methods used. (The methods used could include legal analysis, econometric analysis, interview techniques, research of primary sources—all of which have shortcomings that require thought.)
6. Where empirical analyses are envisaged, a detailed account of the likely data sources, dependent and independent variables, and estimation techniques should be given.
7. An account of the potential findings of the paper. What matters or debates will your paper shed light on? What can researchers and policymakers learn from the possible findings of your

study? I recognise that you cannot know with certainty what the findings of your paper will be—but before commencing the analysis it should be possible to think through what the different possible conclusions will be. If the analysis does not lead to potentially different conclusions (depending on the outcome of the analysis), then it may be the case that the methods employed need to be rethought.

8. Describe which audiences are likely to find your potential findings of interest. The audience could include national policymakers (in which agencies or ministries?), officials in international organisations (which ones?), participants in discussions in international fora (which participants? which fora?), the private bar, corporate interests, and last but not least civil society (including consumer organisations and journalists.)
9. Describe the likely caveats to your approach and likely findings.