Tips for Economics Papers

• **Structure**
  - **Headings** are useful for both outlining and organizing papers
  - Figures and graphs need to be labeled (with sources) at the end of the paper, but only discussed within the paper
  - First sentence of body paragraphs should have transition and connection to previous paragraphs

• **Style**
  - Do not introduce outlines as, “This paper will focus on…”
  - Vary your sentences, but stick with subject verb object
  - Stick to monosyllabic words as much as possible
  - **Controlled tone** – make it scientific and detached
  - Use “we” when referring to actions you may have performed
  - No passive voice

• **Content**
  - Know your reader – definitions of common terms are unnecessary
  - **Define anagrams**, especially inside of regressions
  - Delete “this” and “these” as much as possible
  - Conciseness is key
  - “Long run” is a noun, “long-run” is an adjective
  - “Saving” is a flow, “savings” is a reserve
  - Avoid “clearly,” “of course,” and “obviously”

• **Citations**
  - Citations, in text
    - Example: In the discussion about the Cobb Douglas production function, some distinctions are relevant (Verner 1991).
  - Citations, journal
  - Citations, book
  - Use the year in citations, not the MLA standard of page number
  - Using multiple papers by the same author, written in the same year?
    - Reference them by date of writing
      - Example: Franklin (1998a) and Franklin (1998b) if the first was written in April, and the second in August