

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
Department of Geography
GEOG 5800
Research Design and Geographic Applications
Dr. Murray Rice

Research Report: Expectations

The following is a basic summary of what I expect you to include in your geographic research report, should you choose to follow this option for your term project.

- **TITLE PAGE**

The report should have an interesting title. “Report for Geog 5800” is not an interesting title.

- **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- **ABSTRACT (150-200 words)**

The abstract should summarize the research problem, methods proposed and major findings. It should not exceed one typed page (double spaced) in length.

- **INTRODUCTION (300-400 words)**

These first few paragraphs should acquaint the reader with the general area of inquiry. What is the general context of the research you have completed, and why should anyone care about this kind of investigation?

- **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM and RESEARCH QUESTIONS/OBJECTIVES/HYPOTHESES (200-400 words)**

What is the problem you are studying and why is it important to study it?
What key question(s) do you address?
What are the objectives of the project?
What hypotheses do you test (if applicable)?

- **BACKGROUND/PRESENT STATE OF KNOWLEDGE/LITERATURE REVIEW (600-800 words)**

This section is based on the full literature review you completed earlier in the course. The literature review included here should be a summarized and edited version of your earlier work. The main idea in this section is to show how your research fits into what has been done before and why your study needs to be done.

A good literature review:

- a. delineates the known from the unknown;
- b. develops a line of argument; and
- c. lays the groundwork for the study or analysis to come

Because you are creating a full report, do not place as much emphasis on this literature review as someone who is completing the thesis proposal option. This does not mean that your literature review should be a low-quality section, just that you need to allow space (and work time) for reporting on your results and providing conclusions, which the thesis proposal people will not have to do.

- **METHODS/STUDY DESIGN (400-600 words)**

What kind of data do you use, and why is it appropriate data for the problem at hand?

What sampling and measurement techniques did you use? Discuss and justify your methods.

What are the variables and how is each one measured? What are the validity and reliability of these measures?

- **ANALYSIS AND RESULTS (800-1200 words)**

Outline your analysis and the results you obtained. Your emphasis here should be on presenting your analytical methods and your results in as clear and interesting a way as you can possibly manage. Invest time to do this well.

- **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION (600-800 words)**

This section will discuss the meaning and significance of your results. Refer back specifically to your findings and discuss what these findings mean for the development of theory and/or applied geographic practice. A good conclusion should also provide some guidance as to future work that can and should be done in your field, given what you have found here. This section needs to be a strong point of your work.

- **LITERATURE CITED (as many references as you need to use)**

Provide full references for only those materials you used in this report. List your references in a format consistent with a major geography journal (Annals of the AAG, Professional Geographer, Economic Geography, etc.).