

AREC 514
Spring, 2009
Instructions for Term Paper and Class Presentation

Each student will be responsible for writing a paper and making a presentation about one research paper or article that provides analysis of the benefits and costs of some type of alternative fuel or energy. The student should prepare set of powerpoint slides to facilitate the presentation. The paper should address the following points:

1. Background of issue analyzed in the paper (*1 – 2 paragraphs*)
2. Summary of findings from previous or related research (*1 paragraph*)
3. Specific questions or issues addressed in the paper - hypotheses examined (*1 paragraph*)
4. Discussion of the theoretical approach and issues related to measuring costs and benefits (*2 – 3 paragraphs*)
 - Prepare a market diagram or set of diagrams that shows conceptually how the authors tried to (or should have tried to) measure the impacts of the policies they examined.
5. Methodologies used to measure costs and benefits (*2 – 4 paragraphs*)
6. Findings and conclusions, Are you convinced by the conclusions (*1 – 2 paragraphs*)
7. Assess the research with respect to CBA framework and concepts outlined on the following page. (*2 – 4 paragraphs*)

Note: if your article or study is not a CBA, you may discuss the extent to which the components of the CBA framework described on the next page are relevant to the study you are reviewing and if so, how the study could have been expanded to adequately address these components.
8. Suggestions for how to improve or extend the research (*1 paragraph*)

The class presentation should also cover the points described above. The time allotted for each presentation will be 20 minutes. Be prepared to answer questions from the class during your presentation. Try to limit your presentation to 1 slide per point. The paper will be due on the last day of class (May 5). Presentations will be made to the class during the class periods from April 23 – 30.

Components of CBA Framework

Assess the extent to which the study you are reviewing addresses the following components of the CBA framework:

1. Specifies **alternative projects** (or policies)
2. Clearly describes which individuals or groups to include in the analysis (**standing**)
3. Defines the appropriate **lifetime** of the project or policy
4. Adequately identifies and measures **impacts** and the **opportunity costs** of the project or policy
5. Determines appropriate **prices (private or social)** to use in the analysis
6. Determines the appropriate (private or social) **discount rate** for the project or policy
7. Provides appropriate **comparisons** of benefits and costs across alternative outcomes (**risk analysis**)
8. Performs adequate **sensitivity analysis** on results (**analysis of uncertainty**)
9. Makes meaningful **recommendations** for action which are based on the results from the analysis.