Applied Research Paper (CP 8990)

an applied research paper or professional paper

an individual research project on a subject related to your concentration
Purposes

- an opportunity for you to explore an issue of interest to you in greater detail than in a class
- challenges you to work through a planning issue from start to finish (a professional activity)
  - selecting your topic,
  - examining the existing body of knowledge related to your topic,
  - forming your research question,
  - designing and executing your study, and
  - synthesizing what you learn into a well written and argued paper
- helps you pull together the disparate aspects of your education into the examination and attempted resolution of a particular problem or issue
- once completed, it will serve as the best example of your work for when you seek employment
Structure

- can take many forms
  - analyze a question of interest to you and the profession of planning (e.g., the relative impact of power plants and mobile sources on air quality or the feasibility of urban agriculture in southwest Atlanta),
  - assess an existing program or policy (e.g., the effectiveness of a program to redevelop Brownfields), or
  - apply planning knowledge toward the solution of a particular problem (the design of a bicycle infrastructure plan for Midtown), amongst other options.

- can employ various methods of inquiry
  - case studies, analysis of GIS or census data, surveys, observations, and designs

- most papers will be in the range of 10,000 to 18,000 words (40 to 75 pages) plus tables, figures, and references
How to choose a topic

- look at some of the applied research papers that are on the CRP website
  - kinds of questions students have addressed in the past,
  - the research methods used to answer the questions
- think of general questions of interest to you, and then to deduce more specific questions that you will try to answer
- the topic should be specific and concrete enough to be answered in some reasonable way
- discuss the ideas with faculty before proceeding too far
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