



Referee Questions for Seminar Papers at the Chair of Public Finance

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Please review the seminar paper allocated to you by carefully answering the following questions. Answer the questions one after another and try not to mix the answers. Please triple-check the spelling and grammar of your report before handing it in.

Research Question

1. What is the research question of the paper and where exactly is it stated in the paper (page number and paragraph)? (1-2 sentences)
2. Is the research question sufficiently clear? If not, please suggest an improvement. (1-4 sentences)

Structure

3. Summarize each section (not each subsection) of the paper. (2-4 sentences per section)
Note: Do not describe the structure of the text, e.g. "In section 2 the author explains two models of tax competition. He summarizes the setup of the models and their main results." Instead, write an actual summary of the content, e.g. "Section 2 is concerned with the tax competition models by Smith (2012) and Miller (2012). Both models make similar assumptions, but the former uses an exogenous rate of interest, while the latter uses an endogenous one. This difference has no effect on the results: in both models, governments set lower tax rates than a social planner would."
4. Describe for each section, how it contributes or why it does not contribute to answering the research question. (2-3 sentences per section)

Language

5. How would you grade the language of the paper on a scale from 1 (very good) to 5 and why? Which mistakes does the author make often and which passages in the text did you fail to understand, because the language was unclear? (3-5 sentences)

Citations and Reference List

6. Are there any instances in the text where a reference should be added? (3-5 sentences)
Note: Any claim that is not generally accepted should be supported by an argument, by a reference, or by both (if the argument has already been made by somebody else).
7. Is there a 1:1 match between the references in the text and those in the reference list? If not, which references are missing from the text and which references are missing from the reference list? (1-5 sentences)
8. Does the format of the reference list correspond to the guidelines? Most importantly, does the reference list satisfy the criteria of consistency and unambiguousness (explained in the guidelines)? (1-5 sentences)

General Improvements

9. Please provide 2 or 3 suggestions as to how to improve the paper. (3-5 sentences)