

Real World Economics

A major goal in this economics course will be to look at economics from a Real World perspective. Instead of seeing the subject from text only, it is important that we understand how economics affects us on a local, national, and international scale. In order to insure that this remains a course focus - we will spend most every Friday of the semester on Real World Economics. Our Friday presentations will stem from two separate types of assignments. Each of these assignments will come from current news sources. Real World Economics will constitute the 25% project portion of your Marking Period grade. We will also have an open note test at the end of the semester which will double as a common assessment.

Assignments Topics will be given in one of two formats - by Tuesday:

T - TEACHER Choice - Teacher will choose Economics based news article and provide questions to go with it. The assignment always includes a portion where students go onto the Internet to search. Assignments are due on Friday. Friday discussions will revolve around assigned news item.

S - STUDENT Choice - Teacher will provide you a topic and format for research. That format is attached to the end of this syllabus.

Students may work in teams of two on RWE OPTION S - if they choose team members the group must stick together for the Marking Period. They may drop partner at the MP or continue together for the semester. If students are working in teams - one assignment per group will be required and due on Friday regardless of partners presence at school. Some assignments will be given to ALL students - not for groupwork.

T - TEACHER CHOICE- OUTLINE:

- 1 - Teacher will provide a specific News Article to students. Questions will accompany the article. These questions may require some out of class research.
- 2 - Individuals (not team) must turn in questions for study on the article at the beginning of the period on Friday. If students are working in pair Option T is still an individual assignment per person.
- 3 - Each assignment will count 30 points. The assignments will make up the 25% project grade for the MP.
- 4 - Oral presentations, and notes of those presentations, will make up the final Common Assessment on the final day of the Semester. That Assessment is open notes...it essential that you keep your notes organized through out the semester.

S - STUDENT CHOICE - OUTLINE:

- 1 - Teacher will provide a specific topic or topics to student (teams).
- 2 - Class will have one day in the computer lab in which to select news article of their choice related to topic and create their own review following format guidelines.
- 3 - Team (or individual) must turn in assignment at the beginning of the period on Friday. If students are working in pairs...the assignment is due no matter the presence / absence status of partner, whether absences is or isn't excused. One person present in this case - means both members are present.
- 4 - Team (or individual) must turn in a clean copy of the chosen article and write up by due date.
- 5 - At the end of the assignment team must pose one essay question that they would ask concerning their article for students to answer. They must also answer the question in paragraph form.
- 6 - Each assignment will count 30 points. The assignments will make up the 25% project grade for the MP.

SPECIAL NOTE - A 3 POINT BONUS WILL BE ADDED TO THE TEAM WITH THE MOST INTERESTING AND / OR PERTINENT ARTICLE AND THE BEST QUESTION / ANSWER PROVIDED THEY DO A THOROUGH JOB ON THE 5 W EVAL PORTION OF THE ASSIGNMENT.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Option S is a great platform for Economics discussions. Groups chosen to present have two further requirements regarding that presentation.

- 1 - Do a PDF comments write up of your chosen article, and email it to Mr. Wood prior to presentation.
- 2 - Try to find some kind of extra media coverage of your topic and play it as a part of your presentation. This extra may include a YouTube video or a link from the news article or anything else you think pertinent. This portion of the presentation is not required, however a good choice will improve your presentation grade.

If one in the group is present - the group is present. You will get a 30 point grade for the presentation, which will be based primarily on organization and how well you answer questions about your topic.

So be prepared both in presentation and note taking.

Finally, if one of the two individuals in the group is present on Friday due date or for presentation, then both are. Excused absence of a partner does not absolve the group from due dates. If one is present both are present. And if both are not properly excused the assignment grade is zero.

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Student Choice - OPTION (S)

If we do Student Choice (OPTION S) for RWE I will provide you a topic for research by Tuesday. Assignment is due Friday. Friday discussions will revolve around the article you've chosen on a topic I've chosen. Requirements for that article are listed below. We will have one day (possibly two) in the computer lab for OPTION S.

Student Choice (OPTION S) - Guidelines

1 - You will be assigned a general TOPIC (China economy, OIL, Housing slump, Overthrow of US government) - you then must find a relevant news article that deals with the issue from an economic perspective. Choose reputable sites - Journals and News - not blogs.

2 - Find a format and stick with that same format thru all your news articles.

3 - Type the assignment - single spaced / two to three pages in length

4 - Place the following on your form:

- Your name - your teammates name if applicable
- Teacher Assigned Topic
- Title of the article
- Source of the article
- Date of the printing - articles should all be current
- in short form - who, what, when, where, why
- Quote - that best characterizes the article / Quote explanation (paragraph)
- 3-4 paragraph summary of the article
- 3-4 paragraph opinion regarding the situation - what do you think about it all
- Both the summary and opinion should concentrate on the economic situations discussed in the article.

5 - At the end I want you to pose an essay question dealing with economics and the article.

- Then answer that question in paragraph form - 2 - 3 paragraphs.

6 - The grade is a 30 point project grade. Turn in your evaluation with a clean copy of the article.

7 - Oral presentations. Option S is a great platform for Economics discussions. Groups chosen to present have two further requirements regarding that presentation.

1 - Do a PDF comments write up of your chosen article, and email it to Mr. Wood prior to presentation.

2 - Try to find some kind of extra media coverage of your topic and play it as a part of your presentation. This extra may include a YouTube video or a link from the news article or anything else you think pertinent. This portion of the presentation is not required, however a good choice will improve your presentation grade.

If one in the group is present - the group is present. You will get a 30 point grade for the presentation, which will be based primarily on organization and how well you answer questions about your topic.

8 - BONUS POINTS - 3 points (one grade) bonus will be added to written RWE's that pose the best question/answer combo in the class and those that have found a particularly interesting article. In order to gain bonus points however all aspects of the assignments must be covered.