

# 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.

**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.

## Teacher Choice - OPTION (T)

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 pairs 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 of the Semester. That Assessment is open notes...it essential that you keep your notes organized through out the semester; you need a single notebook or a dedicated section of a divided notes for these RWE notes.

# Student Choice - OPTION (S)

I

f 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. These requirements are the same as for A.C.T! in Government and I.O.W. in Senior Current Issues. We will have one day (possibly two) in the computer lab for OPTION S.

**You may work with a partner for Option S, and you may drop your partner at some time in the semester. However, you may not choose a second and you cannot go back to the original – if you choose solo, you stay solo.**

## Guidelines for Option S

**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 form)
- 3-4 paragraph summary of the article
- 3-4 paragraph reflection 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.

**Special Note for the article...***you MUST actively read the article that you are writing your reflection on. That means – scribble and notate and draw and underline and question and write all over the thing...in an effort to better take apart the reading. This will in turn lead to HLT in the reflection. Make sure if you are working with a partner on OPTION S – that both students turn in the actively read article. Failure to do so will result in a grade reduction for each article not actively read.*

**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.