

Instructions for Short Paper

Find a news article, published since January 1, 2008, which you can model using the economic models we have studied in class to date. Choose an article which contains an analysis of recent events. Do **not** choose an article which simply reports facts. *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *The Economist* are excellent sources.

Cut out or print the news article and include it with your paper.

Write a two-page paper (double-spaced, single-sided, one-inch margins all around) changing the language of the journalist to the more specific language of economic models. Explain exactly what the journalist is saying in terms of economic models, and determine whether the journalist's conclusions are consistent with what the economic models imply. Include fully labeled graphs wherever possible. The graphs can be included in a separate appendix (in addition to your two typed pages of text), but be sure to refer to the graphs and describe what they show in the text of your paper. I will not pay attention to graphs that are not described in the main body of your paper. The appendix with the graphs should contain no text.

Do not

- **choose an article which simply reports facts**
- **choose an article on a topic we have not covered**
- **simply summarize the article**
- **include graphs which you do not discuss in the text**

The paper should follow standard writing format. Include a title, an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement, a body supporting the thesis statement, and a concluding paragraph.

The grade for the paper will be determined by:

1. Does your choice of article permit analysis with models we have studied to date?
2. Is the article rich enough to allow you to demonstrate your knowledge of economics, or is the article very simple with only a single (or a few) idea(s)?
3. Do the economic models you use to describe the journalist's ideas correctly illustrate the verbal arguments by the journalist?
4. Does your paper show understanding of the economic models you use?
5. Is your paper well-written? Does it have a title, an introduction with a thesis statement, a body supporting the thesis statement, and a conclusion?