

Writing Project Information

EC 201: Principles of Macroeconomics

Spring 2022

You will write an essay about a newspaper article that you find relevant to the concepts you learn in class. The essay is short (no more than three double spaced typed pages) discussions of articles appearing in newspapers such as the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, or The Washington Post etc. The typical essay is two to three pages.

The essay shall state the date, author and topic of the article (1st paragraph).

The 2nd and 3rd paragraphs (or additional paragraphs as is necessary) shall summarize and describe the key economic ideas of the article. This portion of the essay should discuss the relevant “economic event(s)” or “issue” addressed in the article. (For example, it could be about hyperinflation in Venezuela or the economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic.)

Finally, the essay should critically evaluate the economic issue or concept that is addressed in the article. (For example, housing prices are rising because the demand increased more than supply or how the war in Ukraine has led to higher gas prices.) In this latter part of the essay, you are expected to analyze the economic issue or event through the tools and concepts learned in the class. For example, if the article is about the increase in U.S. car sales which is tied to falling gasoline prices, then you would analyze the automobile market in terms of an increase in demand caused by a decline in the price of a complement good (gasoline).

Feel free to pick any economic topic or event that you find interesting (that is the point) and be critical in your analysis. If the article states things that are inconsistent with economic theory, point out the inconsistency. Finally, you must attach the article to your essay and cannot use an article discussed in class.

The due dates for the essay is Thursday, April 28, 2022.