

## WRITING ABOUT AN ECONOMIC ENIGMA

**THIS PROJECT IS DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this project is for you to apply an economic way of thinking to an everyday occurrence.

### PHASE ONE: IDENTIFICATION OF AN ENIGMA AND RESEARCH

#### **Step 1: Identify an economic enigma**

You may either create your own economic enigma or choose one of the examples I have provided.

#### ***Economic Enigma Examples***

- Why do people use a tanning bed when you can tan for free?
- Why do people spend more money on name brand products when they can spend less for similar generic products?
- Why do people buy fast food even though they know it is bad for their health?
- Why do brides spend so much money on a wedding dress that they will wear once, when a groom could wear his tux that he rents over and over again?
- Why do economy seats on an airplane cost different amounts?
- Why do police officers get paid so much less than professional baseball players?
- Why does a five-day Disneyland pass cost 2.5 times what a one-day pass costs?

**Step 2: From the seven economic principles that we learned about in chapter 1 (packet), choose the three principles) of economic thinking that best explain your enigma.** For each principle chosen, explain how each of these principles can be applied to your enigma.

**Step 3: Find illustrations, photographs, graphs, tables, charts, etc. that provide hints as to what your enigma (question) is.** Research and find three to four visuals that will help illustrate your enigma. Visuals include: graphs, political cartoons, pictures, quotations, facts, tables, charts, etc. *Remember, your chart/graph/etc. probably won't sum up your entire question.* For example, if you chose the enigma of why people eat fast food even though it is bad for you, you might include some visual that shows the health effects of high-fat food and perhaps a graph that shows the frequency of which people eat at fast food restaurants.

### PHASE TWO: CREATE A FINAL PRODUCT

The **first page** of your article should get readers interested in figuring out what your economic enigma is. This is where you should include the visuals found in step 3. ***Your question/enigma and/or title should NOT be on this page. It is just like the enigmas we looked at in class – the person should have to guess what the enigma is.***

The **second page** of your article should include:

- A clever title that alerts the reader to the topic of your enigma.
- A brief introduction that summarizes the visuals/data provided on the first page in paragraph form. These paragraphs should include narrative that explains why your question is indeed an enigma. Please consult the example provided in class.

- Using your work from step 2, in three separate paragraphs explain each principle that you used, as well as how that principle applies to your economic enigma.
- A conclusion that wraps up your article.

The **third page** of your project should include any sources you used. You must cite any photographs, tables, charts, articles, etc. on a sources cited page. Please use MLA format.

## ECONOMIC ENIGMA PROJECT OUTLINE

*Use this as a rough draft to help organize your article*

### First Page – Build interest in your economic enigma

Present 3 to 4 piece of economic data

Do not put your title/enigma on the first page. Your readers should have to guess what it is.

### Second Page – Your Article

Title/Question: \_\_\_\_\_

**Introduction:** Explain why your economic enigma is an enigma. State your enigma and explain why it is puzzling or seemingly inexplicable.

**Paragraph 1:** Principle of economic thinking #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe how this principle helps explain your enigma:

**Paragraph 2:** Principle of economic thinking #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe how this principle helps explain your enigma:

**Paragraph 3:** Principle of economic thinking #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe how this principle helps explain your enigma:

**Conclusion:** Wrap up your article in an interesting way.