

Your writing assignment will be to write one short article for the newspaper. I'm thinking of a format similar to Hal Varian's *Economic Scene* columns which appear monthly in the New York Times (or really similar to any of the contributors to that particular section of the paper). He keeps them posted on his website here: <http://www.sims.berkeley.edu/~hal/people/hal/articles.html>. He also provides a good "how to" here <http://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~hal/Papers/2004/how-to-make-a-scene.html>

The rest of the articles can be found in the *New York Times*. Online access http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/news/business/columns/economic_scene/index.html

The articles are of varying flavors, but tend to fall in the following categories:

1. A review of recent economics related research.
2. Explaining an economic phenomenon or theory in an interesting, and easily readable fashion.
3. It is sometimes an opinion piece where he uses the tools of economics to argue a given viewpoint.

While I'd like your articles to be on a macroeconomics topic, I will allow you to write on any economics related topic. And as you've seen this can be BROADLY interpreted, the key is to apply the tools of economics.

The columns are usually 750-1000 words so that is your target. Given the shortness of the paper, quality is ever more important and conciseness is the key to a good paper.

If you are looking for recent research articles to get ideas, there are many places on the web. You might try the Economic Literature Index database which indexes economics related journals. Available from Murphy Library: <http://libguides.uwlax.edu/economics>. You can also search working papers here: <http://ideas.repec.org> or google scholar <http://scholar.google.com/>

Directions and Notes:

1. Include your name and student ID in your response, and name the file with your last name. Ex. Brooks-ID.docx
2. Submit your memo to the appropriate D2L Dropbox folder. They are due in the D2L drop box no later than 11:59 pm on May 8th.
3. All submissions will be run against TurnItIn, a **cheating and plagiarism detector** used by UW-L faculty that compares your submission to all other students' submissions in this and other courses, and against online sources. **Please do your own work.**
4. I will use the CBA writing rubric to guide my review of your writing. http://www.uwlax.edu/uploadedFiles/Academics/Colleges_Schools/College_of_Business_Administration/Written%20Communication%20Rubric_Final_Aug%201%202012.pdf
5. Since this is a newspaper article, citations should be worked into the text of the document. Much like Varian does here: <http://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~hal/people/hal/NYTimes/2006-06-01.html>