

ECO 712

Economic Scene article (Papers)

Taggert J. Brooks

Your writing assignment will be to write two short articles 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, if you seek **prior** approval I may 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. Don't know if it is a macro or micro topic? Ask.

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. You are required to bring a hard copy of a draft version of the paper to class the period before it is formally due, we will critique each other's papers. The final version will be due electronically by 5:00 pm of the due date. Please name the file as your student login lastname-firs.doc.

Since there is a built in revision process I expect these papers to be tight, well written and interesting. If English is not your first language please take advantage of the writing assistance available on campus.

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/>