

Economics 212, Fall 07

Group Project - Wiki Assignment – part 1 due 10/21!

The first part of this assignment asks you to work with your project group to produce an annotated bibliography on your topic. You will be working on this on-line annotated bibliography within a wiki on the Web. A wiki is a web page format created specifically so that it can be edited easily by lots of people. In this case, we are using pbwiki. The specific URL for each wiki is given below.

The password you'll need to edit your wiki is hcc.

In groups of 3-5 people, you will be working on one of the following topics:

1. *Budget Deficits and National Debt* -- <http://econ212f07nationaldebt.pbwiki.com>
2. *Unemployment in Different Countries* -- <http://econ212f07unemployment.pbwiki.com>
3. *Global Financial Integration* -- <http://econ212f07globalfinancial.pbwiki.com>
4. *Personal Investing* -- <http://econ212f07personalinvesting.pbwiki.com>
5. *International Trade Issues* -- <http://econ212f07worldtrade.pbwiki.com>

For assignments due by email, please paste your work directly into the email text, double spacing between paragraphs. No attachments, please. This project will be divided into five parts and more details will be provided on the assignment requirements and grading criteria as the project proceeds:

1. Source collection, organization, and annotation for topic #1 – *Due Sunday 10/21*

Find web pages and articles available through web databases that relate to your topic. Post links to your sources on your wiki page including the citation information as shown at the top of your topic page. Organize the sources according to the topic questions and make sure that you have at least 3-4 sources for each question. Your sources should be from 2002 or later, unless you have a very strong reason for including an older source. In the annotation for each source, explain what the web page or article has to offer and what it is good for in terms of answering the question and writing a paper. (50 points possible, group grade)

2. Essay on topic #1 and revisions to source listings – *Due by email Sunday*

11/4

Each student writes a 7-9 paragraph essay on the topic he or she worked on. This essay should coherently answer the topic questions in narrative form. It should also incorporate material from the book into the explanations and have a clear introduction and conclusion. Include a list of at least 8 sources that you looked at in preparing your paper. As you work on your papers, you'll want to revise the wiki listings for your topic to be more useful to other students in the second essay. *(20 points possible for the individual essays)*

3. Peer evaluation of group members' efforts – *Due by email Sunday 11/11*
Evaluate the efforts of each group member in creating and revising the Wiki for topic #1. This evaluation is confidential and these points are assigned at the end of the quarter. *(10 points possible for evaluation; 25 points possible for each group member you are evaluating)*
4. Essay on topic #2 – *Due by email Sunday 12/2*
Each student writes a 7-9 paragraph essay on your topic #2. This essay should coherently answer the topic questions in narrative form. It should also incorporate material from the book into your explanations and have a clear introduction and conclusion. Include a list of at least 8 sources that you looked at in preparing your paper. *(20 points possible)*
5. Evaluation of the wiki for topic #2 – *Also due by email, Sunday 12/2*
After writing your second essay, you will score the wiki page created for this second topic on how helpful it was in writing your paper. *(10 points possible for the evaluation; 25 points possible for the group whose work you are evaluating)*

Topic Descriptions:

Your group's Wiki page must be organized according to the questions listed below. You may find it helpful to look in the textbook index. These questions are meant to be starting points, and you are encouraged to add to the list as you learn more about the topic.

Budget Deficits and National Debt

- What are some useful concepts or vocabulary when we consider national debt issues?
- What has been happening to the national debt over the past 5 years? Why?
- Who holds or purchases most of US national debt?
- Who seems to be most concerned with the national debt? Why?
- How does US national debt compare to that of other countries?

Unemployment in Different Countries

- What are some useful concepts or vocabulary when we consider unemployment issues and international comparisons?
- What are the major issues in measuring unemployment?
- How does US unemployment compare to other industrialized countries and to poorer countries? Why?
- How do unemployment statistics from other places help us understand employment issues in the US?
- How do wages vary across different countries and how does the variation help explain the "outsourcing" of jobs?

Global Financial Integration

- What are some useful concepts or vocabulary when we examine global financial integration?
- What are the major ways that our financial system is integrated with other countries?
- How did the subprime mortgage crisis in the US affect other countries? Why?
- How did central banks in other places respond to this crisis? Why?
- How effective has central bank action in the US and other countries been in responding to the crisis? What is the long run outlook?

Personal Investing

- What are some useful concepts or vocabulary when we consider personal investing issues?
- What is a share of stock and why would you buy one? What is a bond and why would you buy one? How do most people participate in the stock and

bond markets?

- What kinds of things about a company, an industry, or the economy should you consider when deciding whether to buy a share of stock?
- What are the major stock markets and what do they do for firms and investors? What do they do for society and the economy?
- What has been happening in the stock markets recently, both in trends and organizationally? Why?

World Trade Issues

- What are some useful concepts or vocabulary when we consider international trade issues?
- How important is international trade to the US? To Washington State?
- What is the WTO and what does it have to do with us?
- Who in society is most concerned about international trade issues? Why?
- What is the real situation with respect to international trade and US jobs?