

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

AP Macroeconomics

Mr. Bordonaro

**Summer Assignment: *Freakonomics***

At first, the study of economics can be similar to learning a new language. Although the economy has a vast influence on the way we live, understanding its vocabulary and terminology can be difficult. Your summer assignment will be to read the book Freakonomics: A Rouge Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. The book will not only introduce some general economics terminology, but it will also explore real world application. In addition to reading the book, you must also complete a 3 - 4 page double spaced paper that includes the following:

- Explain of your current knowledge of economics. It is perfectly acceptable to state that you do not have much prior knowledge of economics.
- Choose **two** economic concepts that are discussed by Levitt and Dubner. Examples of these concepts include, but are not limited to, the role of incentives, causation vs. correlation, and information asymmetry.
- For each principle or concept:
  - Briefly summarize how Levitt and Dubner describe the concepts in the book.
  - Explain how these concepts can apply to our everyday lives (yours in particular). These explanations/examples must be different than the ones found in the book.
  - Cite examples of how the concepts have impacted our present-day economy through the use of **two** current events articles (one for each concept). The articles must be found using credible news sources (NY Times, Wall St. Journal, The Economist, etc.).
- Explain whether or not you agree with Levitt and Dubner when they state that there is no unifying theme to their book.

The two current events articles must be cited using proper MLA format.

All papers are due on the first day of class: **Thursday, September 3, 2026**. It will be the first major grade of the year, worth 100 points. Before the first day of school, I will email all students to explain how this typed assignment will be submitted using Turnitin.

**Failure to complete the assignment by the due date indicated will result in a grade of zero and a re-evaluation of placement in the course.**

Enjoy the summer, and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Sincerely,

Mr. Bordonaro

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Freakonomics Summer Assignment Rubric**

| Category                                                             |                                                                                                          |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                            |                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Economic Concept</b><br><b>(25 Points)</b>         | Appropriate description of the concept with extremely detailed explanation of the connection to society. | Decent description of the concept with detailed explanation of the connection to society.   | Minimal description of the concept with limited connection to society.                                                                     | Description is vague with no connection to society.               |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Economic Concept</b><br><b>(25 Points)</b>         | Appropriate description of the concept with extremely detailed explanation of the connection to society. | Decent description of the concept with detailed explanation of the connection to society.   | Minimal description of the concept with limited connection to society.                                                                     | Description is vague with no connection to society.               |
| <b>Current Events Articles and Application</b><br><b>(15 Points)</b> | Both articles show a clear connection to the economic concepts with poignant analysis provided.          | Both articles show a clear connection to the economic concepts with good analysis provided. | One article shows a clear connection to an economic concept, but the other may not connect to the topic. Decent analysis is also provided. | One or more articles are missing and/or no analysis is provided.  |
| <b>Analysis of Unifying Theme</b><br><b>(15 Points)</b>              | Analysis is clear and proven with strong supporting evidence.                                            | Analysis is stated but evidence to support the claim may not be strong.                     | Analysis is stated but not proven.                                                                                                         | Analysis is vague or unclear and unsupported with details.        |
| <b>Organization</b><br><b>(10 Points)</b>                            | Information is very organized with well-constructed paragraphs.                                          | Information is organized with well-constructed paragraphs.                                  | Information is organized but paragraphs are not well-constructed.                                                                          | The information appears to be disorganized.                       |
| <b>Grammar, Mechanics, and Citation</b><br><b>(10 Points)</b>        | There are no grammar, spelling, and/or citation mistakes.                                                | There are minimal grammar, spelling, and/or citation mistakes.                              | There are several grammar, spelling, and/or citation mistakes.                                                                             | Student clearly did not proofread and/or properly cite the paper. |