

Econ 102: Microeconomics
News Reports

Type a report describing an article found in a popular print news paper and explain how economics concepts relate to the news, and especially important, how the economics concepts add to one's understanding of the issues in news story. All students will be required to write a rough draft of each paper, and make an appointment with the writing center to discuss how to improve your writing. Although the rough draft must be turned in, only the final draft of the paper will be assessed. I will only make comments on the rough drafts if you have specific questions about your work.

The news report must be between 700 and 1500 words, double spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 point font, and follow APA style.

News Report Assessment

Category	Excellent Work	Average Work	Below Average Work
Grammar / spelling	There are <i>zero</i> grammar and spelling errors. 10 points	There are between <i>1-4</i> grammar and/or spelling errors. 5-9 points	There are more than 4 grammar and/or spelling errors. 0-4 points
Flow of Ideas	Ideas are not necessarily repeated and there are no unnecessary ideas that do not contribute to thesis of the paper. 10 points	There are 1-3 repeated or unnecessary ideas in the paper. 5-9 points	There are more than 3 repeated or unnecessary ideas in the paper. 0-4 points
Organization	The paper is well organized, with smooth transitions - summary of news, economic significance, economics concepts, and synthesis/discussion of news and economics concepts. 8-10 points	Some transitions are abrupt, some parts of the paper jump back and forth. 4-7 points	There are abrupt transitions, and many parts of the paper make unclear contributions. 0-3 points
Writing Style	Writing is professional throughout, using an active voice, and is not unnecessarily verbose. 8-10 points	3-5 sentences are not professional and/or are unnecessarily passive or verbose. 4-7 points	More than 5 sentences are not professional and/or are unnecessarily passive or verbose. 0-3 points
Summary of Article	Summary is short, to the point, and sufficient to understand main point and economic significance. 16-20 points	Summary includes 1-2 extra ideas not essential to main point or economic significance. 8-15 points	Summary includes more than 2 extra ideas, or is not sufficient to understand the point of the article or the its relationship to economics. 0-7 points
Economics Summary	Summary of economics concepts is short and to the point, sufficient to understand how the economics concept(s) add to ones understanding of the article. 16-20 points	Summary of economics concepts include 1-2 extra details, or is missing at most 1 detail that is necessary to understand how the economics concept(s) add to ones understanding of the article. 8-15 points	Summary includes more than 2 details, or is missing more than 1 detail that necessary to the economics concept(s) add to ones understanding of the article. 0-7 points
Economics Analysis	There are 2 or more adequately and correctly described applications of the economics model(s) that help explain the news, or add to the understanding of the issues in the news. 16-20 points	There is only 1 adequately and correctly described application of the economics model(s) that help explain the news, or add to the understanding of the issues in the news. 8-15 points	There are no adequately and correctly described applications of the economics model(s) that are adequately described. 0-7 points