



## **Economic Research Project Topics**

### **Topic #1: Recessions and Depressions**

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- What are good strategies to prepare for economic recessions and depressions?
- What do you think are the most important changes in the American economy in the last 100 years? Why are they important? (Use charts/graphs to explain your views)

2) Make a mini-documentary (three to five minutes) on the effects of recessions and depressions on minorities households

3) Create a Digital Newsletter reporting on the impact that unemployment and reduced consumer and business spending can have on people's lives.

### **Topic #2: Price System**

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- Why is the price system the best way to distribute goods and services and satisfy the most people?
- Reflect on this quotation of Henry David Thoreau, "The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it."

2) If you know someone who owns a business supplying goods or services, ask to interview him or her (with your parents' permission). Ask about how they make decisions regarding supply and demand; how they set prices; their peak times and off-peak times; how they use advertising to influence supply and demand; and any other ideas you have. Prepare at least seven questions ahead of time and try to keep the conversation within one hour to respect your interviewee's time. Use video or audio to record the interview.

3) Make a chart with the following items along the left column: gallon of milk, dozen eggs, bath towel, adult sneakers, and coffee mug. Locate those items at 5 different stores in your area. You do not have to locate products of the same type or brand. For each product that you locate, list the store, price, place of manufacture, and your perspective of the quality on a scale of 1 to 5. After you have completed the research, write a paragraph about each product and give your theories and opinions on the reasons for prices, quality, and the marketing behind each of these products and the stores that sell them.



### **Topic #3: What is the value of work for individuals and Society?**

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- What is the value of work for the individual and society? How is work an important part of business and the economy?
- Write the work/employment biography of three family members/community members. Do preliminary research by learning the answers to these questions: What jobs have they held? What did they earn at those jobs? Were they satisfied with their pay? Did they feel employers and managers treated them fairly? Why did they move from one job to the next? Were they ever unemployed?

2) Make a mini-documentary (three to five minutes) that highlights the pros/cons of immigration on the labor market.

3) Design a board game with a theme of labor. Include various types of work, training for specific jobs, wages, unions, and unemployment as elements of the game.

### **Topic #4: Identifying Market Failures**

1) Write 300 to 500 words on one of the following topics:

- How do you feel that the government should or should not be involved in providing public goods for: security, infrastructure, education, and health care?
- Suppose you are a member of your county's governing body. You've been asked to deliver a report and recommendation at the next meeting regarding the proposal of a large chemical company. The company wants to build a plant in your county which will bring hundreds of jobs to the area. They are asking that the county build a road from the proposed site to the nearest highway. They are asking for an exemption on property taxes for ten years. The local community is concerned about safety for the environment and potential employees.

Write your report, responding to the proposal and all related issues.

2) What is a business, product, or service that you think needs to be less regulated or more regulated by the government? Design an attractive flier that succinctly explains your views.

3) Make a mini-documentary (three to five minutes) that creatively explains taxes: who pays them, who gets the money, and what the money is used for.



**Topic #5: Relationship between Health and Food**

1) Write 300 to 500 words on the following topic:

- How could America do a better job of providing a quality food supply for its people? How could the negative environmental and health impacts of modern agriculture be reduced? How should government, large business, small business, and consumers be involved in the process?

2) Plan a meal that celebrates U.S. agricultural productivity. Use recipes that reflect specific parts of the country. Find and map out where the main foods used in the meal were grown. Create a menu for the meal that gives this information. Prepare this meal for your family.

3) What is one concern you have about a negative environmental impact (negative effects on the food supply)? Create a full-page magazine advertisement that encourages personal responsibility in this area. You can design it on a computer.