SuperFreakonomics Essay Assignment

**Overview**: This term you will be writing two essays in this course. The first will be on a portion of a text that you will be required to read. The excerpt is “How is a Street Prostitute Like a Department Store Santa?” is taken from Levitt & Dubner’s *Superfreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes and Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance*.

You will be required to read the text, conduct independent research, and write an essay of between 1000 - 1200 words analyzing and applying economic concepts to the text. You will be required to choose 1 of 3 questions that are provided to answer and subsequently structure your essay around.

**Essay Formatting:**

Font Size: 12

Font Style: Times/Times New Roman

Spacing: Double

Margins: Standard (do not change them!)

**The Assignment:**

1. Read the text provided actively (that means with a highlighter – I did take the time to print these for you so write on them – and a pen) as well as read it more than once. If you don’t know a word or concept, look it up! You will be required to use portions of the text in your essay so ensure you understand it completely.

***Note:*** *You may also want to read the introduction to the book entitled “Putting the Freak in Economics”; it may help give you some more context in order to better understand the chapter you are required to read better; but, again this is optional.*

1. Answer one of the following questions:

**Questions:**

a) By applying 3 economic concepts of your choice that you have studied thus far in the course, evaluate prostitution as discussed in economic terms in the Superfreakonomics Chapter “How is a Street Prostitute Like a Department Store Santa?” Superfreakonomics Chapter “How is a Street Prostitute Like a Department Store Santa?”

b) By applying 3 economic concepts of your choice that you have studied thus far in the course, compare and contrast prostitution and department store Santa’s as represented in the Superfreakonomics Chapter “How is a Street Prostitute Like a Department Store Santa?” Superfreakonomics Chapter “How is a Street Prostitute Like a Department Store Santa?”

c) Choose 1 economic thinker we have studied thus far and apply their theories (3) to the Superfreakonomics Chapter “How is a Street Prostitute Like a Department Store Santa?” Be sure to first explain the theories clearly and how they are demonstrated in the reading.

1. You will be required to find between **2 and 3** additional sources to support your argument, so research is required. ***Note:*** *Ensure they meet our Research Success Criteria.*
2. You should then construct a mind map to organize your ideas and map out your arguments for your essay (**thesis**).
3. You should then fill out an essay organizer, which will be provided for you, making note of all of your references. Owl @ Perdue has all the information you need on how to reference MLA <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/> (you **must** reference all ideas that are not yours, plagiarism of any kind will result in a mark of 0) and prepare to write your paper.
4. You should then write your essay including all parts of an essay and ensuring that it meets our Essay Success Criteria.
5. You must then create a Works Cited Page that mirrors ones here: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/12/>
6. You are evaluated by the following rubric. You must read the rubric so to know what you **MUST** do to be successful.
7. Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rubric For Evaluation**

**Overall Expectations Covered**

A1. **Economic Inquiry:** use the economic inquiry process and the concepts of economic thinking when investigating current Canadian and international economic issues;

A2. **Developing Transferable Skills:** apply in everyday contexts skills developed through economic investigation, and identify various careers in which a background in economics might be an asset.

B1. **Scarcity and Choice:** demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the concept of scarcity and how it influences economic choices and decisions of various economic stakeholders

B2. **Supply and Demand Models:** demonstrate an understanding of supply and demand models, including how to apply these models, and of factors that affect supply and demand

C2. **Economic Trade-Offs and Decisions:** analyse economic trade-offs from the perspective of different stakeholders, including those in different countries, and how trade-offs influence economic decisions

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| Criteria | Level 1 50 – 59% | Level 2 60 – 72% | Level 3 73 – 85% | Level 4 86 – 100% |
| Knowledge  Do you demonstrate knowledge of economic concepts learned in class? | You demonstrate a limited understanding of economic concepts you learned in class. | You demonstrate some understanding of economic concepts learned in class. | You demonstrate considerable understanding of economic concepts learned in class. | You demonstrate a clear and deep understanding of economic concepts learned in class. |
| Thinking  Did you analyze the text you read?  Did you use secondary sources? | Your analysis of the text is limited and demonstrates little critical thinking.  You used 1 quality secondary source effectively. | Your analysis demonstrates some critical thinking, but is limited in scope.  You used 2 quality secondary sources effectively. | Your analysis is broad and encompasses all important aspects of the text you read.  You used 2 quality secondary sources effectively and have a proper Works Cited Page. | You discuss important aspects of the text with thought provoking analysis.  You used 3 sources of excellent quality effectively and have a proper Works Cited Page. |
| Communication  Do you clearly articulate your argument?  Do you clearly communicate your understanding of economic concepts? | Your argument is not clearly articulated.  Your communication of economic concepts is not clear. | Your argument is somewhat clear.  Your communication of economic concepts is somewhat clear. | Your argument is clear and concise.  Your communication of economic concepts is clear and you properly cite all material used in MLA format. | Your argument is clear, concise and complex.  Your communication of economic concepts is excellent and you properly cite all material used in MLA format. |
| Application  Do you apply economic concepts to the text you read? | You apply economic concepts with limited effectiveness. | You apply economic concepts somewhat effectively. | You apply economic concepts with considerable effectiveness. | You apply economic concepts with thorough effectiveness. |