

Economics 336: Writing Assignment #1

In this assignment, you will write a summary and critique of a newspaper opinion article dealing with some aspect of government economic policy. Your chosen oped MUST be:

- published DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS, in The Globe and Mail, National Post, Financial Post, or Ottawa Citizen newspaper
- not a news article: It must clearly deal with the writer's opinions, not merely statements of fact.
- not an unsigned editorial – only signed opeds are acceptable.

One good source of such articles is the "Economy Lab" blog at the Globe and Mail. A good example is:

[Sick of congestion? build roads, not transit. The Globe and Mail \(2013, Dec 27\)](#)

However, do NOT choose this example to write about yourself.

Further Details:

- The first paragraph of your essay should summarize in your own words the original author's arguments.
- In the remainder of your essay, apply the concepts from this course, such as equity, efficiency, public goods, externalities, etc., to analyze the economic issue at hand, and the author's arguments. Do not simply repeat statements you have heard in class, but go beyond them. Be critical and think for yourself. In your view, what is the right policy response to the issue at hand?
- Your essay should be about 2 pages long (750–1000 words).
- Express your own opinion in your own words. Where possible, relate your arguments to the key concepts of equity, efficiency, and compliance costs discussed in this course.
- It is not necessary to consult any secondary sources. If you choose to do so, list them all in the references section, and cite them in the text in the appropriate places. See [How Not to Plagiarize](#) from the Writing Centre.

In grading, points will be assigned for:

- choosing an oped that meets the above criteria
- structure and clarity of the text
- a clear statement of your own opinions
- application of economic concepts taught in this course