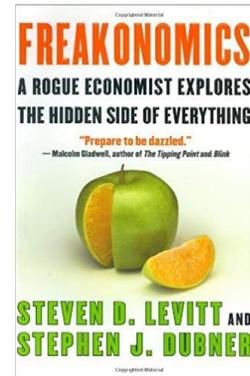


# Freakonomics Summer Work For



## Economics- Mr. Savarese

You will need to acquire a copy of the book, and read it during the summer, or during the first couple of weeks of the course. (We will use elements of it in Economics, and it might also be used in your Government course). For Economics, we will concentrate on **economic concepts** that the authors introduce in each chapter. Here are examples:

**Chapter 1:** “School Teachers and Sumo Wrestlers”- concepts will include incentives, consumer behavior, government regulation and unforeseen consequences.

**Chapter 2:** “KKK and Real Estate Agents”- value of information, incentives, technological change, competition and efficiency

**Chapter 3:** “Drug Dealers and Their Moms”- fixed and variable costs, “winner take all” labor market, incentives, supply and demand and technological change

**Chapter 4:** “Where Have All the Criminals Gone?”- correlation vs. causation, supply and demand, competition and profit and positive vs. normative analysis

**Chapter 5:** “What Makes a Perfect Parent?” - consequences of imperfect information, positive vs. normative analysis, correlation vs. causation, incentives

**Chapter 6:** “Parenting: Part II- Naming Children”- correlation vs. causation, law of demand, incentives, scarcity

**\*We will complete group work during the first couple of weeks of the course and it will be used to write the first critique of the year, explained on the next page:**

## Freakonomics Critique- Rubric

After reading the book and completing the group work, select one of the major economic ideas or terms outlined: (Ex. incentives, supply and demand, technological change, positive and normative analysis, value of information, consumer behavior, correlation vs. causation, labor markets, competition and efficiency, government regulation, scarcity).

**Graded holistically out of 5 points- must be about 500 words and include all of these elements. Will be due a few weeks into the course- date to be announced.**

Economic Concept	Use at least 2/3 sentences to correctly identify and define a specific economic concept addressed in the book (use the list above)
Theme	Explain fully at least 2 specific examples that the author uses to illustrate the economic concept you've chosen.
Quotes	Use at least 3-4 Quotes that best express the author's main ideas regarding that economic concept.
Reactions	What do you think of the authors' examples? Do they fit with the economic concepts? Give an example (that's not in the book) of the economic concept you've chosen.
Bias	Explain (with examples) any bias identified- or demonstrated- by the author. If you think there is no bias, explain why you think so.

Total Points for This Critique \_\_\_\_\_