## Econ 136: Working with Economic Data

**Community Profile Assignment I**

Draft a brief sketch or profile of your community along the lines of (and following the general format of) the exemplar I wrote for West Nottingham Township. Have in mind a general reader, unfamiliar with the place. As in the exemplar, it should take you no more than a single page (roughly 250-400 words, excluding citations) to accomplish this task. What would they need to know in order get a good sense of your community? Your profile should locate the community geographically; convey a sense of the human landscape (e.g., urban, suburban, town, rural, etc.; primarily residential, commercial, industrial or mixed; well established or rapidly growing); sketch the natural environment to the extent it characterizes the community; and describe local government (who is primarily responsible for the health, safety and welfare of the local community?). When relevant, the profile should include a fact (e.g., a major historic event) or current controversy (e.g., battle over whether to open a Walmart) that residents would say makes this community stand out.

**Deadline:** Upload your draft to your shared Dropbox folder by the time you retire Monday night February 3 (or in any event by 3 am Tuesday morning).

**Selecting your community**: You may choose the community where your parents live or where you grew up or just where you feel at home today. Alternatively, since the Eco-Literacy 360 students will be exploring places located in the Philadelphia area, you could choose a community like Haverford Township or the 19041 zip code or some other community in the area. Most communities in the northeastern United States correspond to a political subdivision, such as a township. But, if you live in a large city or a state, like Maryland, where the smallest political unit is the county, then define the community in the terms residents would use – such as a post office zip code or voting district.

**Citations**: An important part of this assignment is giving you practice in tracking down appropriate sources and citing them properly. Please use APA style. Citation resources are available through the Library’s Econ 136 Research Guide

<http://libguides.brynmawr.edu/econ-136>

or similar guides for [Economics](http://libguides.brynmawr.edu/economics) and [Environmental Studies.](http://libguides.brynmawr.edu/environmental-studies)

<http://libguides.brynmawr.edu/economics>

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**Assessment:** Please have the following rubric in mind as you develop your profile.

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|  | Exemplary  5 | High Quality  4 | Adequate  3 | Needs Improvement  2 |
| Structure | Effectively conveys a sense of the community | Characteristics presented in order of importance | Characteristics included but lacks purpose and coherence | Paragraphs lack coherence and internal logic |
| Content | Inspired characterization of elements in profile | Addresses all elements | Addresses all but one significant element of assignment | Fails to address 2 or more elements of assignment |
| Citations | Appropriately cited a particularly apposite source | Flawless reference list and citation placement | No more than one or two errors | Fails to follow conventions or cite appropriately |
| Attention to Presentation |  |  | Caught obvious flaws | No evidence of proof reading;  exceeds length guideline |

Regardless of the brilliance of the underlying ideas, writing that trips up a reader or that contains obvious typos and grammatical or syntactical errors will be ignored. Most readers will stop reading at the first or second egregious error. However, for this assignment, I want you to put most of your energy into content and mastering the citation process. Just take the time to give the paper a final read through to catch obvious errors before submission.