**Econ 136: Working with Economic Data**

**Explaining a Price Paper**

**Due before you retire Monday night, March 3** (or by 3am Tuesday).

The goal is to explain the market conditions (as represented by an appropriate demand-supply diagram) that give rise to the price paid for a good or service that interests you. It could be the case of a single good sold at auction (like *Birds of America*); or existing durable goods traded between buyers and sellers (such the works of Shonibare or a precious metal like gold). It could be a product manufactured where sellers face the same opportunity costs for inputs (so that long-run supply is horizontal), or where expanding production requires one to rely on less productive inputs (so that supply slopes up). I suggest you avoid oligopoly (a market where a small number of large corporations sell the good and, by restricting entry, are able to earn economic profits in equilibrium). In your analysis, be sure to note any presence of economic rent and, if present, its source.

Your audience consists of students who have completed Econ 105 (hence, are familiar with the basic terminology of economics, but not necessarily the market you have chosen). The primary emphasis should be on getting the analysis right, but you should also provide a clear explanation of the product on which you are focusing (hence, the basis for the illustrative diagram you have created) and you should think about ways of engaging your reader in the topic (making them want to read on beyond the first paragraph). You’ll need to do just enough research to provide background information on the market, including appropriate APA citations.

**Assessment:** I’ll use the rubric on the next page to evaluate your paper.

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|  | Exemplary5 | High Quality4 | Adequate3 | Needs Improvement2 |
| Audience | Establishes direct rapport with target audience | Easy to infer the target audience | Content appropriate to reader background | Assumes to little or too much econbackground |
| Structure | Effectively conveys the determinants of market price | Market conditions noted in order of importance | Content addresses the assignment  | Paragraphs lack coherence and internal logic |
| Diagram | Flawless illustration of the appropriate market equilibrium | No more than one or two missing or flawed elements | Correctlycaptures essence of the market | Incorrect illustration of described market equilibrium |
| Integration of Diagram | Seamless integration of text and graph | Text supported by graph rather than describing it | Graph and text are mutually consistent | Poor placement or graph inconsistent with text |
| 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  |  | No more than 1-2 places that tripped up a reader | Caught obvious flaws | No evidence of a final read through |