

Research Paper: The Economics of Sports 229

Due: Monday, April 20

Students will work in **groups of two or three**. Each group is to select a topic that relates to sports economics. I will be happy to assist in your selection process. Possible topics include pay and performance, competitive balance, free agency, economic impact of sports facilities, discrimination in sports, etc.

The goal of this paper is to use the knowledge that each of you have learned in class to analyze the current state of the sports industry as it relates to your topic. When applicable, your paper should recommend economic policies to aid in developing a solution to your problem.

The paper must include a section in which the groups collect and analyzes data in order to answer the questions posed. I am available to recommend good sources for data and suggest methods of analysis. Rod Fort's sports economics page is one good place to start.
(<http://www.rodneymfort.com/SportsData/BizFrame.htm>)

The following is a list of publications that you may find useful:

- *The Journal of Sports Economics, International Journal of Sports Finance, Journal of Sport and Social Issues*, and others. JSE is available in the library. JSSI, IJSF, and others are available via ILL. Searchable indices for papers are available at www.repec.org and at EconLit which is available through the library's website. **Each paper must include at least one reference from an academic journal.**
- Newspapers or magazines including popular magazines such as Sports Illustrated.
- Internet sites, especially league and team web pages. In addition, the blog www.thesportseconomist.com is a great site for finding ideas for research topics as well as interest items about sports economics.
- Textbooks or other materials. Especially use the bibliography supplied at the end of the book.

I expect your paper will be a minimum of 15 pages. It should be fully referenced. Footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical references are all acceptable. A complete bibliography of sources and data used must be included. Please ask me if you have any questions regarding proper citation. Grades will be based both on content and "presentation" which includes style, grammar, proper citation, professional-looking shiny plastic binder, etc.

Deadlines: Your group must be selected by Wednesday, February 25. Your topic must be selected by Friday, March 20.
A groups must make an appointment to meet with me during office hours prior to Wednesday, April 8. By this time you should have a topic and have begun to think about answering your question.
A bibliography will be due Wednesday, April 8.
No rough draft will be required, but I will read and comment on anything turned in before Wednesday, April 8.
The final draft will be due **Monday, April 20**. (No exceptions, you have 2 months!)

You will also turn in your paper in electronic format along with a spreadsheet file of the data you used for the paper along with a hard copy of the paper.