

**Essay Exam One: Fall 2016/2017– AP Economics**

**“Economic Equity”**

**Recommended Due Date (Full Credit): Friday, Oct 21, 2014**

**Final Due Date (reduced one letter grade): Friday, End of Semester**

**Question: Your text explains one of the things people value is economic equity (the idea of fairness.) The text explains that society does not value all jobs equally. Using the text, readings provided on the web, and text links (and hopefully your own research), explain your feelings about economic equity, and answer the question, “Is there a problem with inequality in the US, or is inequality simply a fundamental part of any system? Is government fundamentally making inequality worse through tax regulations and a revolving door relationship with Wall Street financiers and business owners, or is this a misperception of an extremely complex system that works poorly at best? *Does the government have a place in promoting economic equity, in terms of labor, education, discrimination; or, should the government let the market be and allow the invisible hand of the market to determine wages, working conditions, and contracts?”***

**Sample Outline (But feel free to set this essay up as you wish)**

1. **Introduction / Thesis Statement**
  - a. **Opening paragraph**
    - i. Grab readers attention with relevant story, statistics, quote, logical argument, joke, or something to get the reader to want to read more, and a reason why.
    - ii. Build up to, and then deliver, your thesis. The Thesis is the single most important part of the essay. It is the one (rarely two or more) sentence(s) that is the heart of the essay, that answers the question - what is this essay about?
2. **2. Body – the bulk of the paper is here, in data taken from the readings and other evidence you have found to support your position.**
  - a. **Should an economy be fair, and how does the US compare to other countries in fairness in the economy?**
  - b. **Historical Inequality**
    - i. **Industrial Revolution attitudes on work**
    - ii. **Slavery and the modern economy**
  - c. **Elite attitudes towards wealth and labor**
  - d. **Do the working poor receive pay that values their labor? How are they treated as opposed to middle class or upper class workers?**
  - e. **Does the greater share of wealth going to the top create the poor? Or are the poor responsible for their condition?**
  - f. **Are there political consequences of inequality?**
  - g. **Is the new Gig economy (Uber) a benefit for workers or a way to shift costs to workers?**
  - h. **Fairness and Minimum wages, workplace rules, Unions vs corporations, collective bargaining (CEOs represent the shareholders, who represents the workers?)**
  - i. **Fairness and; Women, Minorities, Education, Globalization, Off-shoring, Out-sourcing, Sweatshops, Wages-slaves, etc.**
3. **Conclusion – do you think that economic equity should be more emphasized than it is, or less? Summarize the important points, and restate your thesis in terms of the DPE you presented.**

**Extras:**

1. **Make sure to include citations *every time you use a statement or an idea from the readings that I have provided, or that you found in your own independent research.* Use APA citation notation (found on website). Using others work without providing proper citation is plagiarism and grounds for immediate failure on this essay.**
2. **Papers should be 10-12 pages in length in Times New Roman or Ariel 12 point font, double spaced, pages numbered, running head on each page, abstract page, references on last page (as per APA notation), 1 inch borders on top/bottom and left/right, stapled. Be sure to include name and period.**
3. **Please type all work on a computer.**
4. **Please provide 2 copies of the essay, one that I will keep, and one that will be returned to you. I will not return any papers that are turned in with only one copy.**