

EC 210

Mini Project 1

Prof. Santetti

Spring 2025

INSTRUCTIONS: It is still quite early in the semester, and we have many topics to cover. However, this first *Mini Project*'s purpose is to explore your growing (macro)economic perceptions.

Inspired by this [Washington Post article](#), you are asked to evaluate how your *hometown*'s economy has dealt (and has been dealing, if applicable) with the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is extremely likely that this crisis has affected its economy in some way, and in this assignment you will evaluate that from a *macroeconomic* perspective.

Talk to people, consult local newspapers and/or the local news, and critically evaluate how the last **five years** have affected your town's *employment, migration and population, businesses*, or whatever other aspects that you see fit for the purposes of our course.

How you will turn in this assignment is up to you. In other words, you may record a *video*, a *podcast*, an *interview*, or write an *essay*. We all have preferred ways of expressing ourselves, so choose your favorite format.

- As having *feedback* prior to submitting an assignment is usually helpful, students will submit a draft/early-ish version of their Projects by 02/11 (Tu). Feedback will be provided through *anonymous peer-reviewing*. A separate Canvas assignment is available for this purpose. [Here](#) are some helpful guidelines for a successful student peer-reviewing process. *Failing to submit drafts for peer review and/or failing to provide feedback will result in point deductions.*
- In order to keep the reviewing process blind and anonymous, **do not include your name** in your draft submission.

Let us set some *limits*:

- **Video**: max. 10 minutes;
- **Podcast/Interview**: max. 15 minutes;
- **Essay**: 3–5 pages, double-spaced.

The most relevant thing from this assignment is for you to evaluate how a *macroeconomic* event can have *local* effects. This way, analyzing your hometown can make it easier. Concentrate on the *stories*, not so much on *theoretical* rigor!

- **Draft submissions due 02/11 (Tu). Peer reviews due 02/13 (Th), before class.**
- **Assignment due 02/18 (Th), before class.**
- **Submissions on Canvas.**
- **Points Possible: 20**

- Be honest. Don't cheat.
- You are more intelligent than any artificially-made prompt.
- **Wikipedia** is not an academic bibliographical source.
- Have fun. The process should be rewarding, not a burden.

QUICK RUBRIC:

- Brief demographic information/description about your town/county (e.g., *location, population size, average income, main economic activities*, etc., if available): **5** points;
- Using and mentioning official sources of information (e.g., news articles, town/county official websites, official databases, transcribed statements from consulted individuals, etc.): **5** points;
- Relating the pandemic crisis with the local economy (how businesses dealt with it, how unemployment numbers have changed, migratory changes, supply chain issues, etc.): **5** points;
- Explicitly referencing your sources by the end of your essay (keep these in a separate page—it will not count as an essay page): **5** points.
 - Please don't use lengthy URL links for your references. Wrap them in text (see a [quick tutorial](#))
 - [This link](#) from Iwasaki Library provides several citation styles to apply to your Project.