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Self-Reflection for the Critical Thinking Institute

Assignment Design: Final Research Project (Essay & Presentation) for ECO2013 Principles of Economics Macroeconomics and ECO2023 Principles of Economics Microeconomics.

Assignment details: Students have a several pre-requested discussions, assignments and one Kight Tour (in Module2-Module 7) prior to the final research project where they identify economic problem/issue, collect information/economic data, recognize and analyze an economic assumption/ hypothesis, evaluate and synthesize other points of view considering the complexities of an economic problem. Students develop, explore and refine their economic assumptions through the writing and presenting process, which also broadens their understanding of the macroeconomic or microeconomic content and their ability to think critically. The grading rubrics have a specific category: critical thinking which measures the students' ability to analyze own and others' economic assumptions and evaluate the relevance of contexts before presenting a point of view about any economic problem.

Self-Reflection: I've noticed that one of major problems of many of my students is a lack of ability to think "like an economist" or to think critically. I believe that think "like an economist" is an actual critical thinking because it involves using identifying problems, collecting information (or mining data), analyzing an economic assumption, and evaluating points of view. Especially, an ability to think critically is important when my students need to work with economic models such as circular flow model, aggregate expenditure model, aggregate demand and aggregate supply model, absolute and comparative advantages, cost -benefit analyses, etc. Critical thinking also requires creativity which is a center of my assignment: Final Research Project. It, moreover, involves describing recent economic news or events, implications of new economic policies, mining economic data, analyzing economic efficiency, estimating positive and negative effects of market or government policies, developing new economic ideas and evaluating them by using critical thinking. Finally, I would like to thank everyone in Critical Thinking Institute (CTI) for their support. I really enjoyed participating in CTI. It was for me a very exciting experience. My favorite part was our cross disciplinary discussions when we shared our course assignments ideas.

<http://lrayeconomics.weebly.com/critical-thinking-practice.html>

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