

**2013 NATIONAL ECONOMICS CHALLENGE
CRITICAL THINKING ROUND**

Instructions:

Attached to this cover sheet is a one-page critical thinking problem that outlines an economic issue, poses a problem, and tasks your team with providing an economic analysis addressing the problem.

Your team will have 40 minutes to prepare and a maximum of 12 minutes to present your economic analysis. Your team presentation should directly address the questions raised in the critical thinking problem, although your team may choose to bring in other considerations that it thinks are relevant and significant. Following the team presentation, there will be 5 – 10 minutes for judges to ask questions of team members. Keep in mind that this is a team assignment and that all team members should understand the reasoning behind the presentation and be prepared to answer questions.

During the preparation period, your team will not have computers or electronic or Internet access of any kind, so you are not expected to discuss data or precise figures. Flip charts, markers, legal pads and pencils are available for use in planning and supporting your presentation. Use of these materials is optional.

Judging Criteria:

Judges will be looking for a clear and rational analysis of the problem. They have been given the following suggested criteria to use in evaluating the critical thinking presentations:

Addressing the Problem (25%)

Considerations may include, but are not limited to:

- attention to all elements of the task
- comprehensive coverage of problem elements
- application of economic concepts as relevant
- presentation of logical arguments

Background Knowledge (15%)

Considerations may include, but are not limited to:

- evidence of knowledge of economic content necessary to address the problem
- evidence of knowledge of economic issues necessary to address the problem

Economic Analysis and Insights (25%)

Considerations may include, but are not limited to:

- evidence of thinking critically about problem
- evidence of thinking critically about underlying assumptions where relevant
- presentation of costs and benefits of different alternatives
- application of economic methodology as relevant

Presentation (20%)

Considerations may include, but are not limited to:

- overall quality of presentation
- evidence of teamwork and coordination
- evidence of participation by all team members
- clarity of presentation
- creativity

Responses to Judge's Questions (15%)

Considerations may include, but are not limited to:

- evidence of sufficient knowledge to answer questions posed
- evidence of analytical strengths in responses

GOOD LUCK, HAVE FUN, AND REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE ALREADY CHAMPIONS!