

Economics 590
Dr. Reed Olsen
Spring 2012
Assignment 6

The purpose of assignment 6 is to write a summary report on a specific industry. You should prepare and write your summary report following the outline that we discussed in class and that is in the handout given in class. You should do the following:

1. I will pass around a sign-up sheet. Select an industry that you are interested in researching and identify it on the sign-up sheet. **Only one person may sign-up for each specific industry.** If you wish to do a summary report on an industry that is not listed, you may do so provided you first get permission from the instructor. The industries include:

Examples of major industries include automotive, housing/construction, entertainment, pharmaceutical, computers, airlines, telecommunications, education, banking, health care, manufacturing, and agriculture.

2. Collect current/historical information about the industry. You can search on-line to locate articles published about the industry in the past few years (op-ed articles from the Wall Street Journal and similar publications would be especially useful.) Additional information can be found in the *U.S. Industrial Outlook*, *the Statistical Abstract*, *the Survey of Current Business*, plus a number of other useful sources, most of them on-line.
3. Follow the 7-step procedure discussed in class to do the summary report, paying particular attention to organization. Recall that you want to be able to tell a story about the industry via your summary report. The story you tell will depend upon the information you collect and the organization. Organizing diverse information in a meaningful way, telling a story, is the critical aspect of a summary report.
4. You should be prepared to turn in a 1,000 word, approximately 4 typed pages, report. You must follow the organization we discussed in class and presented in the handout. You may use tables of data, where appropriate. Remember to provide sources for all information and data presented in your summary article, including a bibliography of sources. (You cannot simply photocopy tables from other sources, but must construct your own tables.)

The Assignment is due in class on March 29.