G.4: Information Literacy Assignment
Sample 1

Research Paper

For your individual paper, you will analyze the macro economy of a foreign nation. Upon completion of your research, you will organize findings related to this country's economy, recent changes, relative size, potential issues and challenges, relative strengths, and other key characteristics. At least one graph with 10 or more years of data is required. Multiple graphs and other visual material are encouraged. Be sure to cite all work.

Please make sure your paper includes the following:

☐ The country you are analyzing should be identified and key descriptive information such as current or recent population, population growth, income or income per capita, land area and density, major cities, location, language(s), life expectancy, or other key characteristics you see as important in describing this country should be identified.

☐ Key economic characteristics such as the size of the economy, its growth rate, inflation, unemployment, or other important characteristics should be given and compared to a benchmark such as the U.S. or the World.

☐ Key descriptions of commerce should be provided. These might include total exports and imports, the trade deficit or surplus, major trading partners, key commodities imported or exported with either the world or the U.S., and other trade factors.

☐ Two or more key issues that have either historically shaped the nation or remain significant factors that will face the nation in the future. These might include geopolitical conflict, resource use or scarcity, civil war, technological issues, infrastructure issues, education or health, or many others. Note that this is the largest component of the rubric (below).

☐ Your outlook for the country moving forward should be included. This should comprise of a broad economic forecast one or more years forward and might include one or more variable such as GDP, population, or others. Your forecast should be supported with well thought out justifications.

☐ Include a bibliography with at least 3 sources.

The paper should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words and should include at least one graph (preferably original-unoriginal graphs must be cited) with no less than ten years of time series
General Education Assessment Plan

Please see me or contact me if you are having difficulty obtaining these data.

Please note that this paper requires more than a simple Wikipedia search. You should compile resources from several sources and write a clear and well organized paper that demonstrates research and comprehension. References to macroeconomic theory should be included. As a warning, any plagiarism will result in heavy penalties on the research paper including a score of zero.

Thanks to Sean LaCroix for allowing use of this sample.