

# Engaging Students with Current Events Using Marketplace with Kai Ryssdal

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## Introduction

Discussion of current economic events is important to deepen student understanding in both Intermediate Macroeconomics and Money & Banking. To meet a learning goal of connecting economic ideas to course material, this assignment asks students to listen to the Weekly Wrap podcast, typically 5 minutes, and to find one key application.

## Instructions for students

Your answers to the following questions on the Marketplace Weekly Wrap broadcast are due before class. We will spend the first few minutes of each class discussing. Be prepared.

## Questions

1. What is the top economic idea/issue/event/data mentioned in the Weekly Wrap? Who is affected by the story?
2. What is the potential impact of this economic idea/issue/event/data mentioned? Is it a short-term or long term example?
3. What is the most interesting part of the Weekly Wrap to you? Why?
4. Which economic model(s) or graph(s) can you relate to your selection above? How?

## Evolution of Assignment

**Spring 2020 in person** – students listened to Weekly Wrap in class and completed 4 questions on paper. We had a class discussion immediately after listening/writing.

**Spring 2020 remote** – Students listened independently and completed 4 questions using feedback form on Moodle. We discussed briefly due to newness to remote classes.

**Fall 2020 remote** – Students listened independently and completed 4 questions using Google form. We discussed at the beginning of the first class of the week.

## Positive and Negative Outcomes

From **spring 2020 in person**

- + All students complete assignment (as long as they are in class)
- + Students have answers and can more quickly recall podcast
- Listening in class takes a lot of time
- Students do not have time to think deeply about issues
- Students had trouble relating stories to models/theories

From **spring 2020 remote**

- + Students provide richer answers when listening since they had more time
- Some students forgot what they wrote or did not do assignment
- Students had trouble relating stories to models/theories

From **fall 2020 remote**

- ✓ Again, students provided richer answers
- ✓ Again, students forgot what they wrote but now had response receipt from Google
- Again, students had trouble relating to models/theories

## Takeaways/Improvements

1. Having students listen and answer questions outside of class develops richer answers.
2. Using Google form allows students to receive a copy of answers.
3. Students need class time to gather their thoughts via think-pair-share (TPS) or small group exercises
4. It may work better to drop question 4 or work on that in small groups.
5. Find ways to encourage more students to engage in discussion at a deeper level (more focus on question 2 in class discussions) by assigning Weekly Wrap student leaders.

## Links

- [Marketplace](#)
  - Look under the episode to find the weekly wrap.
- [Google form](#)
  - Link to Google form used in the fall 2020

## Acknowledgments

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