

Economy Report Card

Economies don't just happen- governments create them. Even in a more open capitalist market like ours, governments still educate the workforce, maintain a system of currency, enact trade agreements with foreign countries, invest in specific types of infrastructure, and create tax policies that support or burden specific businesses. Your assignment is to create an *Economy Report Card*. Once completed, grade the U.S. economy that existed from 1860-1900 and our economy as it exists today. Some things to consider as you create this report card:

1. What performance measures will you use? (size of the economy, individual wealth and economic opportunity, tax rates for varying income levels, average pay of workers, worker safety on the job, income per person, education levels of the workforce, number of people relying on public support, consumer access to technology, etc.)
2. What grade would you give for each of those measures in each time period and why?

Once your report card is complete, write a note "home" that would accompany the grades if you were sending them to the President or Congress during the elections of 1900 and 2014. In which areas is the government doing well? Where does the economy need improvement? As a class we will send the 2014 report cards and notes to our newly elected political representatives.

Your Report Card and "Note Home" is due at the end of class on Thursday (11/13)

Links to Additional Resources

- [Inequality for All](#)
- [Monopoly is Theft](#) by Christopher Ketcham
- [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
- [Pew Research Center: US Income Inequality on Rise](#)
- Salon.com Article [Why Voters Don't Care About Income Inequality](#)
- [PBS NewsHour: 12 min Program on Economic Inequality](#)
- [The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College](#)
 - Specifically: [Income Inequality](#)
- [The Equality of Opportunity Project](#)
- [UN Millennium Development Goals](#)
- [American Fact Finder](#)- Facts and figures from the US Census
- [Online Writing Lab](#)- A one stop site for nearly all of your citation needs