

Two Page Fact Sheet Commodity Summary Assignment AGBE 321

Assignment:

Create a two-page fact sheet on the specific commodity you've been following all semester in popular press. Your fact sheet is meant to encompass and provide an analytical summary of your research and findings over the semester in a succinct layout, which privileges a variety of marketing tools: infographics, images, statistics, succinct narrative, and short economic analysis. Ultimately, the goal is to take everything you have learned and analyzed about your commodity from popular press and turn that information into an easily-digestible and understandable fact sheet for public consumption.

Examples include the MSU academic view book, <http://www.montana.edu/viewbook/> and <http://www.montana.edu/about/#academic-excellence>.

Details:

- Create one to two infographics that explain information about your commodity
- Include three to four images (cited on a separate works cited page)
- Explanation/presentation of a number of the most important news stories in a graphic or graph, map, or other visual summary (should include a specific time period or number of days, number of countries, publications, etc.)
- Brief description of economic tools and methods applied for analyses
- Market implications and outlook
- Most interesting/valuable highlights from your semester news tracking that is valuable to an economist or economic analysis (these can be infographics, graphs, graphics and/or very short summaries)
- Thesis statement or theme you want a stakeholder/producer/public/agribusiness to take away from your market analysis (no more than 100 words of narrative of an economic analysis and commodity projection)
- Include the COA/MAES logo
- Final product must be a pdf

Helpful sources:

- <http://www.easel.ly/>
- <http://piktochart.com/>
- <https://infogr.am/>
- <https://venngage.com/>
- <http://www.statsilk.com/>
- Publisher Templates
- Microsoft Word Templates

Requirements:

- Upload a digital copy of your fact sheet, in pdf form, to the Dropbox associated with the assignment.
- Attach a separate list of works cited (including images), in Chicago Manual Style
- Content must be clean, clear and largely error free

Schedule of Assignment Activities and Deadlines:

In D2L, you have been enrolled in groups that are associated with your commodity. Each group has an associated discussion forum and a "Locker" in which you can upload and share materials. This is the central point of communication between your group and myself. The following are due dates and descriptions of the parts of the project:

1. **Wednesday, November 11, 2015:** Review the news articles that you have gone over during the past 10 weeks and identify the 5-7 most important findings. For each findings, provide a 1-2 sentence summary and the reason that you think it's most important to understanding how your market has behaved/changed over the past 2-3 months and where this market is heading. Post these under the "Individual Highlights" thread in your group's D2L Discussion forum.
(15 points toward project grade)
2. **Tuesday, November 17, 2015:** As a group, meet and identify the 7-10 most important findings and facts that you want to highlight in your market description project. Post these under the "Group Highlights" thread in your group's D2L Discussion forum.
(15 points toward project grade)
3. **Monday, November 23, 2015:** As a group, meet and sketch out a draft layout of a 2-page fact sheet that will represent the commodity you focus on and the facts/ideas you would like to highlight. Scan and upload this sketch to your D2L group Locker.
(15 points toward project grade)
4. **Tuesday, November 24, 2015:** Meet with your group during class time to continue discussing the layout design with me and then finalize the design draft/sketch. Scan and upload this finalized draft to your D2L group Locker.
(5 points toward project grade)
5. **Wednesday, December 2, 2015:** Submit a final draft of the 2-page fact sheet to your group's D2L Locker. You will receive final feedback from me within 24 hours of submission.
(15 points toward project grade)
6. **Saturday, December 5, 2015:** Submit the final version of the 2-page fact sheet to your group's D2L Locker.
(15 points toward project grade)
7. **Sunday, December 6, 2015:** Complete and submit two evaluations: (a) Peer evaluation of your group members and (b) Assessment of the semester-long news analysis project.
(5 points toward project grade)

** The remaining 15 points of your project grade will depend on your peers' evaluation of your effort toward the project. This will ensure that free-rider problems are minimized.