

Principles Briefing (Due 23 Sep 2014)

You are advising the minister of education on government's role in the private and public provision of education from preschool (3 years) through university. Your task is to describe the pros and cons of government involvement in...

- Financing the cost of education
- Setting educational standards
- Providing education at government schools, with government-employed teachers
- Licensing or regulating private "schools"

In your briefing, you may want to describe the costs and benefits of:

- Payment from students savings, subsidies (to schools), and loans/scholarships to students
- Centralized versus decentralized educational topics and standards
- Goals of the government (taxpaying, obedient citizens), private sector (workers) and individuals (human development)
- Any other factors of interest

Hint: It may help to start with the assumption of zero government involvement, and then choose a first step that would create benefits in excess of costs.

Format for submission

- Your briefing needs to be 700 words or less. (Yes, this is ridiculously short. Try to write a sentence or two on the economic impacts from various actions on various actors.)
- You do not need to cite statistics, theory or literature. Discuss from a common sense perspective
- Do NOT put your name or ID number in the briefing
- Name your file xxxx.doc(x), i.e., xxxx are the last four digits of your LUC ID
- Submit online, via blackboard, by midnight on the deadline (top of page)

Critiques on Briefings (Due 30 Sep)

For each of the three briefings you read, please group your comments under the headings of:

- “What I learned”
- “What I did not understand”
- “How to improve”

I will grade your critiques based on the quality of your work, i.e., how helpful and insightful it is to the author (and me). This means you can ignore poor grammar and spelling (I will see it) and that you do not need to argue too much with poor reasoning. Just offer a simple counter-example or question to point out the weakness in the author’s argument.

Format for submission

- Each critique needs to be 300 words or less.
- Do NOT put your name or ID number in the document
- Name your file xxxx-yyyy.doc(x), where xxxx comes from the author of the briefing and yyyy are the last four digits of your LUC ID
- Submit online, via blackboard, by midnight on the deadline (top of page)