

2022 Econ Honors Writing Sample Topic Suggestions

Since it might be more challenging to figure out a topic discussing a local economics issue from overseas, I put together a list of potential topics you could research. These are not necessary topics per se, you can merge them, split them, alter them ... You would of course need to use the internet to get the information, whether you are in Seattle or overseas.

How is Seattle dealing with rapid growth in its IT industries

Amazon and Seattle

Seattle big tech – privacy issues – antitrust issues

NOAA in Seattle – issues covered by NOAA

Homelessness in Seattle – lack of affordable housing

Impact of the pandemic on small business and on the labor force in the Seattle area

The recovery from the pandemic downturn in the Seattle area: adjustments in the leading industrial sectors, labor, small business - predictions.

The Seattle housing market: past and future.

Impact of the lengthy closure of the West Seattle bridge

Introduction and expansion of the light rail system in the Seattle area

Mass transit issues in the Seattle area

Minimum wage in the Seattle area: experience with a minimum wage twice as high as the federal MW - background – impact

The economic history of Seattle - from a small lumber town to a major aircraft manufacturing city and to IT giants domination

The economic history of Boeing – from its beginning on Lake Union to the Boeing Airbus rivalry (WTO cases)

The Port of Seattle – its economic relevance to the Seattle area

Pacific NW forestry – the original economic sector at the root of Seattle growth – its history, its future

Pacific NW fisheries – another basic sector in the growth of the economy - ties to Alaska

UW adjusting to online teaching and administration in the covid era

Impact of the pandemic on housing and food services at UW

Interaction between the big local IT companies, e.g. Apple and Amazon, and UW (a number of affiliates in the dept of economics are employees of these companies)

The UW medical school – local and national impact.

The UW and intellectual property - copyright, patents etc. (this is a general topic relevant to all universities, but you can apply it to UW with examples)

Financing the University of Washington – state university basically depending on private sector