

Written Project

Purpose: To direct the student to read current literature on a real estate topic of the student's choice. Normally this will be in some area of interest of the student. For example if a student is anticipating taking the real estate exam, he or she may want to read articles on real estate agents. If the student is interested in purchasing a home, they would look for articles concerning home ownership. The suggested topics are merely a starting point, almost any real estate related topic may be reviewed. If you have a very novel idea, virtual real estate for example, you should clear it with me first, I do not need to approve your topic. Keep in mind the more narrow your topic, the harder it may be to find relevant articles.

Possible topics: Home ownership, rent versus buy, real estate investment, real estate development, eminent domain, zoning laws, real estate finance, home finance, real estate sales, real estate business, real estate bubble, predatory lending, flipping, first time home buyer, effect of the Federal Reserve on real estate market, real estate investment trusts, 1031 exchange, appraisal, fair housing, landlording, lease options, mobile homes, low income housing, tax sales, tax liens, foreclosure, subprime lending, credit scoring, housing/home slump, mortgage banker, fsbo (for sale by owner), seller's market, buyer's market.

I am hoping to see some papers on "the role of real estate in the recovery of our financial recession", "the role of buyer's attorney in the real estate transaction", and "pros and cons of sustainable real estate development".

Assignment: The student should read four to seven articles in periodicals, magazines, journals, financial newspapers (such as the Wall Street Journal), books (other than the text), or online sources. Note if the student uses short articles (less than 400 words) additional articles should be reviewed. Students should obtain articles from more than one source/author. Summarize the articles and then write your personal analysis of the topic.

Format: Content of Report: The written report will consist of four parts.

1. An overview of the topic and goal of the research.
2. A brief, one or at most two sentence, summary of each of the articles read.
3. A 500 to 700 word analysis of the topic based on the research. References made to the text or the course materials is encouraged. Relating your personal experiences are not suggested however a one paragraph conclusion is encouraged and if applicable application to your situation.
4. Citation to the works: A complete citation of the article is required, (however, I am not a stickler on your form of citation, but you should get in the habit of properly formatting the cite), if the article is from a web site, be sure to indicate the URL of the site and the date printed.

Evaluation: You may turn in your paper either in hard copy or electronic document (pdf, doc, or wpd) via email. I prefer that your papers not exceed 4 pages (single space if you have to). You do not need to turn in copies of the articles but you should retain copies in case I need to see the article and your citation doesn't direct me to the work. The student's work will be evaluated on the basis of the choice of the articles (the more scholarly preferred) and the written report.

Articles which are merely “news releases” will not score very well.

Be sure to put your name on the first page, and if you are submitting electronically the name of the file ~~should~~ include your name (I don't want 100 papers all titled “realestatepaper.pdf”). The top paper may be posted as an example for next semester. You may staple the papers in the upper left corner, but do not use a spiral binding.

Rev. October 28, 2011

Electronically submitted papers **MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME IN THE FILENAME** (ie. JanBeranFINA382Paper.pdf) Papers without a name in the file name will not be accepted, and you will receive a zero percent (0%) as a grade.

Hard copies of your papers may be submitted by turning them in to the UNL Dept. of Finance Office (210 CBA) a day prior to the due date.

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