

Portfolio Artifact #5
Letters of Economic Thinkers
Due: January 3

You will be writing TWO letters. One will be from Adam Smith, who is a capitalist, and the other from Karl Marx, who is known as the “Father of Communism.” These will be open letters directed to their society during the Industrial Revolution. Your goal in each letter is to persuade society that each thinker’s ideas sufficiently value the individual worth of people.

Directions:

- A) Each letter should be signed and dated appropriately for the thinker’s lifetime.
- B) Each entry should be a MINIMUM of 3 paragraphs.
- C) Each entry must be typed and double spaced.
- D) You ARE the economist. Please be sure to write in first person.
- E) Your entries should be persuasive---convincing the reader that their preferred economic system is the best for the individuals in society.

You must address the following components:

- A) Discuss the historical context of each economist. What is happening in society that leads to their economic beliefs?
- B) Explain each economist’s beliefs and why he feels his economic system (Capitalism or Communism) is best for society.
- C) Include how the economist views the value of the individual. Is human worth/value a priority in this economic system, or is it secondary to other aspects?

You will be graded on:

- A) Meeting Task Requirements—Did you address all three parts above?
- B) Relevance—Are you including information that is related to the letters’ goals? Does the information you provide actually help the reader make a judgment on the two economic systems?
- C) Fairness—Are you representing both systems without bias? Does the information you provide accurately represent both the positive and negative of each system?
- D) Mechanics—Did you write in the first person? Is your spelling, grammar, and format correct?