

Helping Teachers Locate Great Economics Teaching Materials

Why a website for K-12 economics teachers?

Teachers are increasingly using the web to locate on-line lesson plans, other teaching materials, and current events for classroom use. This is particularly true for economics because, although economics is now included in most state standards, many school districts are not providing enough economics print materials. Teachers find economics materials and lessons to be most useful when organized by economic concepts, national and state standards, grade level, and subject area of the lesson/class. Teachers also value and trust peer authentication and verification of the content and "teachability" of lesson plans.

What is the purpose of EER?

EconEdReviews (EER) is a systematic approach for gathering teacher comments and reviews of lessons from many websites, and sharing them with other educators.

The purposes of EER website are threefold:

- to help K-12 teachers efficiently find high quality online economics teaching materials.
- to host and promote teachers' evaluations of these materials for use by other teachers.
- to provide teachers' feedback to curriculum developers about the quality of their materials.

What is different about the EER Website?

EER collects links to as many high quality online K-12 economics lesson materials as can be located. With their approval, this includes lessons from the Council for Economic Education, state economic education councils and centers, the Federal Reserve Banks, the national Jump\$tart Coalition, Foundation for Teaching Economics, JA Worldwide, AP Economics, and others. *EER* does not host these lesson materials, but it does present a summary of each lesson, lists the concepts taught, and the economics standards covered.

EER online economics lesson materials are searchable by economic concept, national economics standard, grade level, subject area of the class, type of resource, and the organization providing the lesson. When teachers search by any combination of these criteria, they obtain links to lesson materials that meet the criteria. If previous teachers have reviewed the materials, an overall rating appears with the link. When the teacher decides to examine the lesson materials directly, a link on the review page opens the originating website (CEE, Jump\$tart, etc.).

Have teachers been using EER?

As of October 2011, the website has 351 teachers registered, 1089 lessons listed, and 1054 reviews available. Teachers and other visitors are welcome to read the reviews on *EER* without registering. However, teachers are required to register before creating reviews. A reviewer selects the number of "stars" to show the overall quality of the lesson, and writes comments in a text box. Reviews written for *CEE Econedlink* on that website are also included in *EER*.

How can you help?

EER welcomes, from any organization or business, high quality online educational materials about economics and finance (not political or advertising please) that will be useful for K-12 teachers. Anyone interested in providing support or online economic education materials, please join us! Contact Kim Sosin at ksosin@econedreviews.org.