

Economics: A Christian Worldview – Seen vs. Unseen Headline Detective

(TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY)

Purpose

To give students practice in seeing past the seen effects of a government policy to the unseen effects of that policy.

Time

10-15 minutes.

Instructions

1. Print this page for yourself and Page 2 for each student.
2. **Explain to students:** News reports often highlight only the visible benefit of government spending. Economists must also ask this: What unseen costs or effects are missing from the story? Students will act like investigative reporters and write the missing headline that shows the hidden effects. Encourage answers mentioning things like:
 - Taxes
 - Government borrowing/debt
 - Resources taken from other industries
 - Higher prices
3. Students work individually for 5 minutes, then work in pairs for 5 minutes.
4. Review as a class. (Answers will vary!)

Wrap-Up Questions

- Which unseen headline seemed **most realistic**?
- Which one was **funniest or most surprising**?

Key idea: Economic policies always have seen and unseen effects.

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Write the missing unseen headline for each example below:

Reported headline: “NEW SUBSIDY PROGRAM HELPS FARMERS BUY EQUIPMENT”

Unseen headline:

Reported headline: “GOVERNMENT SCHOOL FUNDING INCREASES AGAIN”

Unseen headline:

Reported headline: “CITY BUILDS NEW STADIUM TO BOOST THE ECONOMY”

Unseen headline:

Reported headline: “ROAD/BRIDGE SPENDING CREATES THOUSANDS OF JOBS”

Unseen headline:

Reported headline: “FREE COLLEGE PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS ATTEND UNIVERSITY”

Unseen headline:

Reported headline: “REBUILDING AFTER HURRICANE CREATES CONSTRUCTION JOBS”

Unseen headline:

Reported headline: “GOVERNMENT HOUSING PROGRAM PROVIDES HUNDREDS OF APARTMENTS”

Unseen headline:

Reported headline: “GOVERNMENT GRANTS HELP NEW COMPANIES HIRE WORKERS”

Unseen headline:

Reported headline: “NEW RAIL PROJECT CREATES THOUSANDS OF JOBS”

Unseen headline:

Reported headline: “GOVERNMENT HEALTH PROGRAM EXPANDS COVERAGE”

Unseen headline:

