Guidelines for Issue Papers

**Purpose.** The goal of this assignment is for you to familiarize yourself with each issue. You should prepare yourself to contribute to the in-class discussion. If you are prepared, the write up should flow rather easily. I would like you to provide a brief history of the issue (inception date, purpose). Each of these issues has supporters and dissenters. Briefly discuss each of their positions. Why do they believe this issue is good / bad? And finally, what do you think? You are welcome to use data / graphs / diagrams etc… in support of your argument. Simply add them to the end of your write-up.

As for resources, feel free to use any you would like (within reason). Newspaper, magazine, web pages, books and textbooks are all fine. Remember, you are preparing yourself for a discussion and (probably) won’t be taken to task on references (yet). Please make your best attempt at properly cite your references. Please include the web address as well as a web title.

As a side note, if you decide to reference a web site, I find a strong correlation between reliability of information and ability to properly reference. If your reference is:

A website by some guy named Anup
www.geocities.com/anup/ihatethewto.htm

you may want to reconsider.

**Rules.** No more than two (2) type written pages (don’t mess with the margins or font). This does not include any graphs, diagrams or data you may choose to include. Line spacing of 1½ is recommended though double spacing is acceptable. Please proofread your write-up. Basic grammar and correct spelling will be expected. I encourage you to make use of the WIU Writing Center (http://www.wiu.edu/users/miwrite/index.htm; Simpkins 341)

Tentative List of Topics:

WTO
NAFTA / CAFTA / FTAA
European Union
World Bank/IMF
Dollarization

This is a tentative list of topics and does not necessarily represent the order of the assignments. Suggestions for discussion topics are welcome.

**Due dates.** These discussions will be tentatively scheduled for every other Friday. 9/1, 9/15, 9/29, 10/20, 11/3. Remember, you must be in class to turn in the assignment.

**Suggestion.** As you run through these exercises, you should the term paper in mind. If you find any of these issues of particular interest and would like to discuss it at greater length, it may well serve as your term paper.