

Paper Topics for Econ 424 Industrial Organization

- 1) Famous antitrust cases—
 - a) US Steel
 - b) Standard Oil
 - c) tobacco
 - d) Alcoa
 - e) IBM
 - f) Microsoft
 - g) Philadelphia electric conspiracy
 - h) ADM price conspiracy
- 2) Mergers / merger movements / specific mergers
 - a) AOL/Time-Warner
 - b) WorldCom/MCI
 - c) Bell Atlantic/Nynex/GTE
 - d) Mercedes/Chrysler
- 3) Executive compensation
 - a) Expensing stock options
 - b) Risk aversion and stock option compensation
 - c) accounting fraud and stock options
- 4) Property rights
 - a) patents and copyrights
 - b) FDA / drug patents and approval
 - c) types of patents approved referenced by industry
 - d) patents v. industrial secrets /
 - e) industrial spying and sabotage
 - f) counterfeiting
- 5) Regulation
 - a) deregulation in telecomm, nat gas, trucking, airlines /
 - b) regulation in medicine, services, etc.
 - c) why have it? does it work?
 - d) truth in advertising
- 6) Entertainment Industry:
 - a) Movies, production and distribution
 - b) Ticket sales and profits: data on ticket sales weekly—measure the shape of the earnings profile.
 - c) cable TV /
 - d) laws on joint ownership of production and distribution
- 7) Transportation
 - a) Airlines: hub and spoke organization / international partnering / reservation systems
 - b) Bankruptcy and terrorism
 - c) Fast trains
- 8) Sports: college or pro's
 - a) TV
 - b) monopsonizing players salaries
 - c) Olympic scandal(s)
- 9) Auto dealing
 - a) state laws
 - b) distribution systems esp. foreign cars
 - c) Merger effects on franchises
 - d) Honda bribery scandal
- 10) Liquor distribution and regulation
- 11) Sex / prostitution / porn
- 12) Bi-language adaptation in the construction industry
 - a) Survey local construction crews that use Mexican workers (30+ observations) – could also survey manufacturing firms that employ Mexicans.
 - b) Get name of company and construction project
 - c) Find out who on the chain of command speaks both English and Spanish. Find out which is that person's native language.
- 13) Tort Reform
 - a) Medical malpractice insurance
 - b) Tort liability judgements by state and region.
- 14) Regulation of credit markets
 - a) Usury laws
 - b) Personal bankruptcy
- 15) The economics of religion
 - a) Catholic church scandals
 - b) Homosexual Episcopalian bishops
 - c) Splintering of the Baptists
 - d) Growth of religion
 - e) Size distribution of churches
 - f) Religious persecution
- 16) Steel quotas
- 17) Economics of Education
 - a) tuition and funding in the ACC
 - b) education quality