

AP Macroeconomics Summer Project:

Why Superman Doesn't Take Over The World

-- What Superheroes Can Tell Us About Economics --

Abstract

"For most, superhero stories and economics could not be more different. Superhero stories are entertainment, whilst economics is generally not seen as the most entertaining subject. Answering questions about what happens in the comics using economics may therefore at first glance appear to be a fool's errand -- but economics isn't all theories and equations. It is a science, born of the inquiries into human behavior that have fascinated us since the beginning of time. Economists... are trying to understand what makes people tick and, in discovering this, aim to make the world a better place. In that sense we're kind of like superheroes."

-- J. Brian O'Roark



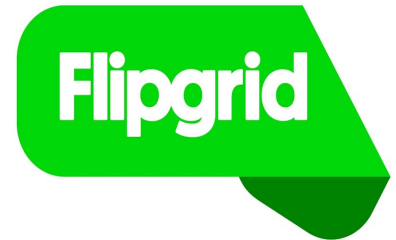
Directions

1. Purchase a copy of "Why Superman Doesn't Take Over The World" by J. Brian O'Roark ([Click here to purchase from Amazon](#))
2. Read Chapters 1 and 2 of the book prior to the beginning of the 2021-22 academic year. The book will be referenced and utilized throughout the school year.
3. Download the [FlipGrid app](#) and create a profile using your Saint Ignatius email if you do not have one already.
4. To make your video response to the book using FlipGrid, click on the link associated with your assigned teacher:
 - a. Mr. Owens - [Summer Project: Econ & Superheroes](#)
 - b. Ms. Fahey - [Summer Project: Econ & Superheroes](#)
5. Read the FlipGrid Video Response requirements below and **submit your video by the first full day** of classes.

FlipGrid Video Response

After reading Chapters 1 and 2 of "Why Superman Doesn't Take Over The World" by J. Brian O'Roark, you will create a FlipGrid video in which you discuss the book. The requirements for the video are as follows:

- 3-4 minutes in length
- Share your name and grade-level
- Answer the **two thematic questions** below. Make sure you include ideas from Chapters 1 and 2 of the book. Otherwise, it will be assumed that you did not do the reading.
- As part of your response, **define the economic terms** associated with the thematic questions
- In your answers, be sure to explain the general relationship between economics and superheroes for **both** of the thematic questions and the associated terms..



Thematic Questions & Terms

1. Why do people become superheroes?

Economic Terms: Incentives and Utility

Comic Book Connection: Backstories

2. Why do superheroes wear masks?

Economic Terms: Costs and Opportunity Cost

Comic Book Connection: Spider-Man

