

***Essential Principles of Economics:* A Hypermedia Textbook**

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URL: <http://william-king.www.drexel.edu/top/prin/txt/ecotoc.html>

Contrary to the view that electronic media will render the textbook obsolete, *Essential Principles of Economics* is an electronic textbook that uses this medium. It is a living document, it is interactive, and it is linked to a course syllabus and other sources central to the educational process. It is designed as a testbed for experiments in interactive hypertext development.

Economic concepts are found by following links from the tables of contents (TOC) page. No special access codes are required. Each chapter has its own contents page. Within each chapter a sequence of expository pages will be found, intermixed to greater or lesser extent with interactive material. Online multiple-choice drill questions are found by following a link on the TOC page of each chapter. My students are required to use the drill questions as part of the course.

Like any textbook, *Essential Principles of Economics* has some special features that are meant to make the joint enterprise of teaching and learning more successful. The overall organization and much of the discussion stem from a view of economics as a “reasonable dialog” (Walton 1989), in which controversy is productive. This dialog approach is helpful in teaching economics because controversy is inevitable when considering social issues.

Essential Principles of Economics is a work in progress with some sections more developed than others. For example, exercises in the alternative version of Chapter 7 (linked at the bottom of the TOC page) eventually will be incorporated throughout the book. It is sufficiently complete for students to use the material either as a primary or supplementary textbook.

REFERENCE

Walton, D. 1989. *Informal logic: A handbook for critical argumentation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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