

Possible topics for Writing Courses:

- Does pro-cyclical fiscal policy (reduced taxes in bad times, higher taxes in good times) reduce the duration of recessions?
- Was the experience of NAFTA consistent with the Heckscher-Ohlin model?
- What made Ireland grow really fast for the last twenty years while Portugal did not?
- What is the effect of major public works (think building for the Olympics or World Cup) on development (of the country or possibly of a city in the US)?
- How are male-female disparities related to growth rates?
- How do trends in family size and structure affect development? How are family size and structure affected by development? What can account for this?
- How do different demographic trends impact growth?
- How does foreign aid impact developing countries?
- What were the impacts of a specific trade reform (e.g. NAFTA)? What does theory tell us the impacts should be? Were the impacts consistent with theory?
- How has a certain technology impacted trade?
- How has a certain technology impacted different subsectors of a developing country? Who were the winners and who were the losers in technological development?
- Analysis of any trade or development or labor theory with at least 20 years of data.
- Comparison of income inequalities in any two countries
- Education and its effects on development and growth in a country- or comparison
- Social Security benefits vs Pensions - - comparison across countries??
- Capital and TFP growth in countries- comparison
- Floating versus Fixed Exchange rates?
- International Capital mobility and its effects on financial markets (and financial crises)
- FDI and its contribution to economic growth
- Euro- challenges of a monetary union

-- Which industries are becoming more geographically concentrated? Why is a particular industry clustering more?

-- Did the housing crisis halt suburbanization? Have preferences for home locations changed?

-- Do older cities better match the predictions of the monocentric city model than younger cities?