**“Breaking Bad” Extra Credit Opportunity Economics**

The first thing I want to put out there is this series does not 100% accurately reflect the attitudes, work ethic, and policy-making of the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) or the Albuquerque police department, as well as the Crystal Meth drug trade. With that said, I feel it is pretty realistic.

**Cast**

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| Series cast summary: |
| Bryan Cranston | [Bryan Cranston](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0186505/?ref_=tt_cl_t1)  | ...  |  [Walter White](http://www.imdb.com/character/ch0074133/?ref_=tt_cl_t1) (62 episodes, 2008-2013)  |
| Anna Gunn | [Anna Gunn](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0348152/?ref_=tt_cl_t2)  | ...  |  [Skyler White](http://www.imdb.com/character/ch0096616/?ref_=tt_cl_t2) (62 episodes, 2008-2013)  |
| Aaron Paul | [Aaron Paul](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0666739/?ref_=tt_cl_t3)  | ...  |  [Jesse Pinkman](http://www.imdb.com/character/ch0096617/?ref_=tt_cl_t3) (62 episodes, 2008-2013)  |
| Dean Norris | [Dean Norris](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0606487/?ref_=tt_cl_t4)  | ...  |  [Hank Schrader](http://www.imdb.com/character/ch0119943/?ref_=tt_cl_t4) (62 episodes, 2008-2013)  |
| Betsy Brandt | [Betsy Brandt](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1336827/?ref_=tt_cl_t5)  | ...  |  [Marie Schrader](http://www.imdb.com/character/ch0129937/?ref_=tt_cl_t5) (62 episodes, 2008-2013)  |
| RJ Mitte | [RJ Mitte](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2666409/?ref_=tt_cl_t6)  | ...  |  [Walter White, Jr.](http://www.imdb.com/character/ch0074134/?ref_=tt_cl_t6) (62 episodes, 2008-2013)  |
| Bob Odenkirk | [Bob Odenkirk](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0644022/?ref_=tt_cl_t7)  | ...  |  [Saul Goodman](http://www.imdb.com/character/ch0148234/?ref_=tt_cl_t7) (43 episodes, 2009-2013)  |
| Steven Michael Quezada | [Steven Michael Quezada](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2366374/?ref_=tt_cl_t8)  | ...  |  [Steven Gomez](http://www.imdb.com/character/ch0234552/?ref_=tt_cl_t8) (34 episodes, 2008-2013)  |
| Jonathan Banks | [Jonathan Banks](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0052186/?ref_=tt_cl_t9)  | ...  |  [Mike Ehrmantraut](http://www.imdb.com/character/ch0185321/?ref_=tt_cl_t9) (28 episodes, 2009-2012)  |
| Giancarlo Esposito | [Giancarlo Esposito](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0002064/?ref_=tt_cl_t10)  | ...  |  [Gustavo 'Gus' Fring](http://www.imdb.com/character/ch0185302/?ref_=tt_cl_t10) (26 episodes, 2009-2011 |

**How does the opportunity work?**

There are 5 seasons of “Breaking Bad” which you can find on Netflix or purchase the seasons from different sources. Not only is the series extremely entertaining but shows incredible examples of economics in action in many of its episodes, which is why I made this extra credit. You have a list of topics below to write on for each episode, and next to the topics is a list of the amount of extra credit possible. These topics are challenging and you must list specific examples of where these topics are found in the shows, which is why I made this Test category extra credit. You can do all the topics or only one, depending on how much you want to earn and how much time you have to work on. Each time you write on a topic for an episode you can earn up to 3 extra credit points. The most episodes you can write on is 15 per quarter. You must respond to each topic with at least a paragraph. I expect you to use the proper character names when referencing scenes from the show. You must be able to show a relationship about a particular subject of a topic you choose and scenes from the episode. Using character quotes will help you in being as detailed as possible when showing a reltionship. You may need to go back and re-watch certain scenes to get all of the details down. It is **TEST** extra credit so the effort can be worth your time. If you were to write on the seven topics for each episode, you can earn up to 21 **TEST** points extra credit and if you write topics on all 15 episodes, you extra credit points can equal two tests.

**Topics (based on our Economic Units):**

**Economic Decision Making:** Scarcity, opportunity costs, tradeoffs, inputs vs. outputs, human capital, entrepreneurship

**Economic Systems:** Free market Economy, Mixed Market Economy, Characteristics of our Free Enterprise System

**Supply and Demand:** Shifters, Elasticity, complementary and substitute goods, revenue

**Markets, Equilibrium and Prices:** price floors and ceilings, price controls, how shifters effect equilibrium

**Market Structures and Market Failures**: Externalities, monopoly, oligopoly, four characteristics used to define market structures.

**Money, banking, savings, and investing:** liquidity, investing, principle, interest,diversification

**U.S. and the Global Economy:** Absolute and comparative advantage, the benefits of global trade to consumers, trade barriers**.**

**Disclamer: I do not in any way, shape or form endorse any illegal activity or violence this TV show depicts. I simply see many examples of Economics that viewers can make connections to.**

**Plagiarism:**

First off, I have watched every episode so I can tell if you are making stuff up. Please do not find things on the internet regarding the episodes and say that it’s your own. I have my ways to determine if your writings are from actually watching the show. If I have any suspicion I will just refuse to continue **reading it and give it back without an extra credit score. Good luck and enjoy!**