Name:

Date:

School:

Facilitator:

5.02 Researching Current Economic Data

Total Points: 57

1. Go to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (<http://www.bls.gov/>)
   1. Select the tab “Data Tools”
   2. Select Unemployment
   3. Select Top Picks (star icon) for “Labor Force Statistics including the National Unemployment Rate”
   4. Click the box “Unemployment Rate”
   5. Select “Retrieve Data” on the bottom of the page.

What is the unemployment rate listed for the last month and year for our nation?

1. Go back to the earlier page (Top Picks), select “Reset Form” on the bottom of the page. Next, research and record the following unemployment rates data. Select each of the filters below and record the rate. Use the latest statistics.
   1. Ages 16-19:
   2. Hispanic or Latino:
   3. Black or African American:
   4. 20 years or older more Women:
   5. 25 years or older High School Graduates No College:
   6. Select any other data point of your choosing and record the search and the data:
2. Go to the “Economic News Release: Table A-15. Alternative measures of labor underutilization” (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t15.htm>). This chart presents different ways to look at unemployment.
   1. According to the *measures* section of the chart, what is the *official unemployment rate* known as?
   2. What is this rate currently?
   3. What groups are added to U-4, U-5, and U-6?
   4. What happens when the definition of the labor force changes to include more categories of people?
   5. Which of the unemployment numbers reflect the true story of an economy, in your opinion? Explain your answer.
3. Go to the BLS K-12 website (<http://www.bls.gov/k12/students.htm>).
   1. Select “Economy At A Glance.”
   2. Choose two states (not including Alabama).
   3. Compare and contrast unemployment data of your two chosen states and Alabama.

Present your findings in a 3-4 sentence paragraph. Use data (real numbers) to explain your response.

1. Go back to the BLS K-12 website (<http://www.bls.gov/k12/students.htm>).
   1. Go the Maps.
   2. Under the ‘Monthly’, select “Unemployment rates for states.”

Scroll your cursor over the map of our country and present your findings and conclusions about the data (real numbers) in a 3-4 sentence paragraph. Use data (real numbers) to explain.

1. Go back to the BLS K-12 website (<http://www.bls.gov/k12/students.htm>).
   1. Go to Career Exploration.

Let’s assume you would like to be an economist. What is the career outlook for you in terms of earnings, job opportunities, and typical job duties? (You will have to do some digging here! Hint: Economics is a social studies course.)