

Triumph of the City Report Assignment and Rubric

The assignment for the book report is to write around 750-1000 max (roughly 1.5 to 2 pages) on the following:

The subtitle of Edward Glaeser’s *Triumph of the City* is *How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier*. Choose one—and only one—of the adjectives from that list (i.e., richer **or** smarter **or** greener **or** healthier **or** happier) for which you personally feel that Glaeser made the most compelling or interesting arguments. Summarize his arguments about why and how cities promote your one chosen adjective from the list, including specific details from the book. Mention and discuss specific policies Glaeser recommends (or would recommend) that cities—perhaps particular cities—adopt to further promote your chosen adjective (richer, smarter, greener, healthier, or happier).

Your work must be your own. The uploaded reports will be run through VeriCite, a plagiarism-detection service. Incidents of plagiarism will be dealt with harshly. Your report is worth a maximum of 50 points. It will be graded using the following rubric:

Summary	10 points if the report does a thorough and comprehensive job of summarizing Glaeser’s arguments about how cities promote the chosen adjective	8 points if the report gives a good but incomplete summary of Glaeser’s arguments about how cities promote the chosen adjective	6 points if the report’s summary touches on some of Glaeser’s arguments about how cities promote the chosen adjective but leaves out important aspects	4 points if the report’s summary demonstrates a misunderstanding of one or more of Glaeser’s arguments	0 points if the report lacks the requested summary of Glaeser’s arguments
Discussion	10 points if the report gives a thorough and comprehensive discussion of Glaeser’s recommended policies for further promoting the chosen adjective	8 points if the report gives a good but incomplete discussion of Glaeser’s recommended policies for further promoting the chosen adjective	6 points if the report’s discussion touches on some of Glaeser’s policy recommendations for the chosen adjective but leaves out other important policies	4 points if the report’s discussion demonstrates a misunderstanding of one or more of Glaeser’s policy recommendations	0 points if the report lacks the requested discussion of policies
Details	10 points if the report’s summary and discussion include a high number of <i>relevant</i> details from the book	8 points if the report’s summary and discussion each include a few <i>relevant</i> details from the book	6 points if the report’s summary and discussion cite details from the book that aren’t relevant	4 points if details from the book are completely absent	0 points if the report attempts to invent fake details from the book
Length	10 points for having the appropriate length (somewhere between 900 and 1100 words)	8 points for going a little over or under the specified range (around 700 words or around 1300 words)	6 points for a report that is significantly shorter or longer than assigned (around 500 words or 1500 words)	4 points if it is much too short or much too long (around 300 or 1700 words)	0 points if barely anything is written or a novel is submitted
Mechanics	10 points if the writing is almost completely free of errors of grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, word choice, formatting, and so forth	8 points if there are several or more errors but the essay is still easy to read and understand	6 points if there are many errors of grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, word choice, formatting, and so forth	4 points if there are so many errors that they become a serious distraction from the arguments being made	0 points if the writing is so full of errors that it is difficult to read or understand

