

## Economists' Views Reduced to Clerihews: An Extra-Credit Opportunity for the ECN305 Community

Spring 2009

Although economists are sometimes long-winded and dull, writing about them need not be. Edmund Clerihew Bentley provided succinct whimsical biographies of many famous people, including a few economists, in poems such as the following two:

John Stuart Mill,  
By a mighty effort of will,  
Overcame his natural bonhomie  
And wrote *Principles of Political Economy*.

The intrepid Ricardo,  
With characteristic bravado,  
Alluded openly to Rent  
Wherever he went.

This type of poem is called a “clerihew,” in honor of its inventor. As the examples above indicate, a clerihew is a droll biographical poem consisting of four lines of irregular length with an AABB rhyme scheme. The subject’s name usually appears at the end of the first line.

ECN305 students are invited to write a clerihew about any economist whose works appear on the reading list for the course. The course grade of a student submitting an original clerihew on one of these economists by April 27 will be raised by one step—for example, from C to C+.

Submissions must conform to the standards of academic integrity spelled out in the University Manual, particularly sections 8.27.10–8.27.12, which can be found at <http://www.uri.edu/facsen/8.20-8.27.html>.