FIN 366: Extra Credit

Overview

On 10 random, unannounced class days this semester, you'll be asked to submit an index card with your summary of a financial news article written within the past 5 days. You must be present in class to submit your card. Valid cards are worth 2 bonus points each, plus up to 5 bonus points for using unique sources, for a total of 25 possible bonus points toward your final grade. Cards won't be collected every day, but that's intentional: it keeps you prepared and reading regularly. Your participation in this opportunity is optional.

How it Works

On 10 randomly chosen class days this semester, I'll collect one 5" × 8" index card from you that includes your summary of a recent financial article.

- These days are *not* announced in advance, so come to every class prepared with a card in hand.
- You *must* be present in class and turn the card in immediately when asked. No early, late, or emailed cards (except for severe illness or university-sponsored athletic activity).
- The article must have been from within the past 5 calendar days (i.e., on a Monday class day, the article can be from that Monday or from the preceding Sunday, Saturday, Friday, Thursday or Wednesday. On a Wednesday class day, the article can be from that Wednesday or the preceding Tuesday, Monday, Sunday, Saturday, or Friday.)
- Be prepared to discuss your article in class if called upon. If you are unable to discuss your article, it implies inadequate understanding and you will forfeit that bonus opportunity.
- The article you summarize must not have been an assigned reading by the professor.
- Cards will *never* be collected on exam days, but all other class days are fair game.

Points

Each qualifying index card summary you turn in is worth 2 points. A card not submitted in time or failing to follow the rules will earn 0 points. You earn an additional 1 bonus point for each unique source, up to 5 total, that your cards reference over the semester.

- Example: a student who turns in 7 card summaries during the semester, all about articles from the *WSJ*, will earn (7 × 2) + 1 = 15 points. A student who turns in 9 cards but uses 4 unique sources over the semester (*WSJ* 3 times, *NYT* 3 times, *FT* 2 times, and *Bloomberg* 1 time) will earn (9 × 2) + 4 = 22 points.

Fabricated sources, low effort, copying other students, or turning in summaries of articles you didn't read and understand will earn 0 points. In egregious cases, the student may forfeit the opportunity for any extra credit altogether. The professor may ask to verify your handwriting.

Approved Sources

Visit https://www.josephfarizo.com/finance/ for links to sources. *All sources are free through the University of Richmond library. Instructions on how to get logins for each of these sources is at https://libguides.richmond.edu/newssources*. Sources should be reputable financial news outlets, including but not necessarily limited to *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Bloomberg*, *CNBC*, reputable bank and consulting firm insights, reputable investor newsletters, equity research reports (on the Bloomberg terminal), and government agency reports.

Appropriate Format of the Summary

Your index card must include:

1. Your name, article title, article source
2. Publication date (within last 5 days)
3. *What* (a brief summary of the article)
4. *Why* (the cause or driver behind what happened)
5. *My Insights and Predictions* (your commentary on the article and any relevance for investors)
6. *Course Connection* (how the article relates to our class material and class discussions)

Sample

Use the sample below as you write your summaries. For your reference, the full article is here.

Joseph Farizo

"Michael Burry Bets He Isn't Too Early to Go Against the AI Juggernaut"
The Wall Street Journal
Published 12/28/25

What: Michael Burry, who found fame (and fortune) in "predicting" the mortgage crisis is betting against hot AI stocks like Nvidia and Palantir. Notably, he shuttered his unsuccessful hedge fund and is making these predictions in his $379/year newsletter.

Why: Burry's claims are based on (1) how AI companies are investing in each other and (2) the limitations of data centers. He thinks Palantir is too reliant on government contracts and Nvidia has questionable relationships with its customers.

My Insights and Predictions: Given Nvidia would need to fall 37% and Palantir would need to fall 75%, I suspect Burry's bets are unlikely to end profitably. Yet, his concerns call into question how much "room to run" these two stocks have, and long positions in either should be entered cautiously. Expect volatility.

Course Connection: We are discussing shorting stocks and put options, how these bets differ from long positions, and the significant risk that they can entail.