

## Freakonomics Movie Worksheet

**Directions:** Answer the following questions based on the film. The questions are listed in the order they appear in the movie. Your answers do not need to be complete sentences.

1. When real estate agents sell their own homes do they make more or less than when they sell clients homes? Why is that?
2. What is "causality"?
3. What happened to the child that the mother inadvertently named "Temptress"?
4. What did Dr. Roland Fryer determine to be the cause of Temptress's bad behaviors?
5. What was the conclusion of the experiment using identical resumes using both Black and White names?
6. What might happen if you give a girl a name like Bobbi or Barbie?
7. What happened to Robert Lane's sons Winner and Loser?
8. Why were the teachers in Chicago cheating for their students?
9. What did the instances of cheating among Sumo wrestlers and the teachers in Chicago have in common?
10. In Sumo wrestling, why is a Sumo wrestler with a 7/7 record more apt to cheat? How often do 7/7 Sumo wrestlers win?

11. What do the realm of high finance and the world of sumo both demonstrate?
12. What happened to the two whistle-blowers who exposed cheating in Professional Sumo wrestling?
13. What do the concepts of Hone and Tatami stand for?
14. Why did the whistleblower ex cop in the Japanese police end up quitting?
15. Why are the Japanese people really not that interested in exposing the Sumo scandal?
16. Why will the New York times not use the word "torture" when Americans are torturing people but have no problems using this word to describe the actions of the Chinese?
17. What did early Polio researchers think might have caused Polio and why? What was the matter with this?
18. As the 1980's came to a close, what did most people think would happen to the crime rate of the United States? Why?
19. Why did Police Forces say that the crime rate went down in the 1990's?
20. What surprising reason does economist Steven Levitt put forward as the real reason that crime rates went down in the 1990's? What does he use to support this idea?

21. How do Levitt's critics see his conclusions?
22. What did Steven Levitt learn about incentives when he tried to potty train his daughter?
23. What does Levitt say not graduating from high school is like in a modern economy? Why do kids not really consider this?
24. In the experiment to get 9<sup>th</sup> graders to succeed in Chicago, how much money did they pay each kid monthly if they met their academic standards? What did Kevin's mom offer to do if her son could meet these standards?
25. Did Kevin meet his academic standards the first month? Does he seem that concerned over this?
26. When they go over the data for the Chicago pay-for-performance project, which kids did it affect and which kids did it not?
27. Why does Kevin say that the money isn't motivating him?
28. What were Kevin Muncy's final grades at the end of the semester and what are his plans?
29. What were the final results of the program at the end of the semester? How many more kids did they get to pass? Do you think the results would have been different if more money would have been used?

**Short Essay:**

The film Freakonomics introduces the viewer to the world of economics by describing several phenomena and then analyzing several possible causes for the phenomena. This idea in the world of economics is called “causality” and the film demonstrates that determining causality can be a tricky affair. Most economists agree that if people, businesses, and organizations can just get the incentives right, they can motivate people to behave the way they want them to. Of course, getting the incentives right can be difficult because determining correct causality is difficult. Write a one to two paragraph essay explaining the idea of causality based on what you have seen in this film.