

# Economics on the Go: Checker Flag Apps for a Winning Pedagogy

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## What do we know about apps?

- **App** - the 2010 **Word of the Year**
- Apps for information, entertainment, health, education, daily tasks, travel, shopping and investing among others
- Today **500,000 plus apps** are available across a variety of digital platforms:
  - Apps for lifestyle
  - Apps for commerce
  - Apps for teaching
  - Apps for a **Winning Pedagogy** in 2014



## What should we know about apps?

- Economic educators have a choice of a wide variety of useful and free apps
- Bringing **apps** into the classroom will **capture** and **sustain** student **interest**
- Today, **tech savvy students** possess some form of app capable platform
- As the digitization of teaching resources becomes increasingly available, instructors can adapt by making course pedagogy more mobile through incorporating **Bring Your Own Device** into the course design
- The number of available apps can be overwhelming
- We identify **50 best apps** with **user rankings** on 5-point qualitative scale from **Awful (1)** to **Excellent (5)**



## Apps for a Winning Pedagogy

### Data Apps

Numbers (4.59)  
 US Economy (3.73)  
 WDI DataFinder (4.71)  
 Economy for iPad (4.64)  
 PGI Data Explorer (4.32)  
 America's Economy (3.8)  
 IMF News and Data (4.13)  
 FRED Economic Data (4.15)  
 Economic Watchdog (4.27)  
 World Bank Africa DataFinder (4.64)



### Informative Apps

Economist  
 BBC News  
 RSA Vision  
 Economy (4.10)  
 EconWise (4.35)  
 Economic Dictionary (4.08)  
 World Bank InfoFinder (4.24)  
 World Development Report (4.43)  
 NPR: Planet Money Podcasts (4.0)  
 Thousands of Economics Articles (4.42)



### Learning Apps

Bloomberg (4.50)  
 MarketDash (4.00)  
 Economics AP (4.69)  
 Khan Academy (4.96)  
 VSB Economics (4.34)  
 Oxford Economics (4.45)  
 Economic Growth (4.25)  
 Economics Spotlight (4.52)  
 Economics Classroom (4.27)  
 MIT OpenCourseWare Lecture Hall  
 Investment Guide + by Forbes (4.5)



## Apps for a Winning Pedagogy

### Assessment Apps

Economics Quiz (4.55)  
 Economics by WAGmob (3.63)  
 ConceptIQ: Micro-economics (4.44)  
 Economics Study Aid and Quiz (4.33)



### Engagement Apps

eClicker (4.0)  
 Poll Runner (4.77)  
 Response Ware (4.33)  
 Socrative Teacher (4.22)



### Apps to Impress

Libertarian Quotes (4.00)

### Teacher Tools Apps

Smarty Student (4.80)  
 Educreations Interactive  
 Whiteboard (4.42)



### Student Tools Apps

BookShelf  
 Currency Converter (4.27)  
 Zillow Mortgage Calculator (4.41)  
 myHomework Student Planner (4.44)  
 BA II Plus Financial Calculator (4.74)



### Game Apps

Lemonade Stand (4.45)  
 GoVenture Entrepreneur (4.12)



### Our Website

<http://econapps.lakishasimmons.com/>

## Why should we use apps?

- Strategic selection of an **app engages** students physically, emotionally, and intellectually
- **Apps** provide a *hands-on* study of economics that can **intrigue and satisfy** both students and instructors
- When students have fun engaging economic apps, their **learning and retention increases**

## Challenges

- Finding interesting apps can be **time consuming and overwhelming**
- Creating in-class activities using apps takes **additional preparation time**
- Entertaining apps **may not suitably align** with course objectives
- Apps **may not connect** to students' daily lives
- **Opportunity cost** for instructor preparation and classroom delivery time
- Not every student has an available **digital platform**



## Advice

- Select apps that **relate to the content** of a particular class
- **Test** in-class activities **before** delivery

