Teaching at K

My Principles of Economics students complete several assignments intended to connect models and theories to the world around them. For instance, I might ask them to find a news article that illustrates a change in Supply and Demand and analyze it using the appropriate graph. My favorite assignment of this type is a short paper reporting on an interview each student does with someone older than 40, often a parent or grandparent. In the interviews, the students ask 1) about specific prices the respondent remembers, with approximate dates, 2) for their opinions on the current state of the economy compared to the past, and 3) for their feelings on today’s standard of living, relative to the past. These papers are always interesting to read and they promote engaging discussions about inflation, business cycles, and economic growth. The interview personalizes the course content and shows its relevance outside the classroom.

—Chuck Stull Economics