

EDUC 237  
Analyzing Our National Budget  
Spring 2011

1. Go to [nationalpriorities.org](http://nationalpriorities.org) website
2. On Home Page, click on RESOURCES and click on FEDERAL BUDGET 101
3. On left menu, click on FEDERAL BUDGET TIMELINE – Read the 5 step budget process (no need reading the rest unless you want more details).
4. On left menu, click on FEDERAL SPENDING. Read and analyze charts.
5. On left menu, click on FEDERAL REVENUES. Read and analyze charts.
6. On left menu, click on FEDERAL DISCRETIONARY AND MANDATORY SPENDING. Read and analyze charts.
7. On left menu, click on FEDERAL DEFICIT, SURPLUS AND NATIONAL DEBT. Read and analyze charts.
8. On left menu, go to CHARTS. Click on DISCRETIONARY BUDGET FY 2011. Read and analyze chart.
9. Go back to Home Page. Click on TOOLS. Click on TRADE-OFFS. Do the interactive exercise. Put in your state and city. Play around with different trade-offs (try PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE).
10. Go back to TOOLS and click on TAX CHART. See how the government distributes your taxes.
11. Go back to TOOLS and click on DATABASE. Do the interactive exercise.
12. Write a reaction to what you have just seen. For each of the exercises above (excluding steps 1, 2 and 3), you must include a reaction. It does not need to be lengthy. But you need to show that you have read, analyzed and understood the readings and graphs and have formed a conclusion on each.
  - a. Show that you understood each reading/chart (“I believe that what the chart is indicating is that we spend x dollars on \_\_\_\_\_.”)
  - b. What do you find interesting about that reading/chart? What is your opinion of that reading/chart?
  - c. After reacting to each of the readings/charts, include an overall reaction to your investigation of this website and how your money is being spent by the government. Do you agree/disagree on how your dollars are being spent? Why? What, if anything, would you do differently?