

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR WEB POSTING ON “BUDGET CONTROVERSIES”

Students are required to make a posting to the VISTA course bulletin board titled *Budget Controversies*. This posting should describe a specific conflict over a budgetary or public finance problem in the public or non-profit sectors in the United States or another country. Pick a topic where there are at least two opposing sides to the budget or public finance conflict. At the national and state levels, you need to pick a specific problem and not “the budget in general.” For instance, a specific federal level topic might include: the national budget deficit, the cost of the war in Iraq, the costs associated with the Hurricane Katrina, or the cost of health care insurance for the poor (Medicaid). These are really very broad topics; if you are considering a controversy at the U.S. national level, you would do best to choose one related to a specific agency or program. In any case, do not choose a topic that has been discussed at length in class.

The posting should summarize when and where the budgetary issue arose, the primary participants (individual(s), interest groups and/or governments/agencies involved) in the debate and their respective concerns, and if and how the issue is being resolved. Students must cite all sources appropriately and have a minimum of three sources.

This posting should be a minimum length of three single-spaced paragraphs, with citations at the end of the text. You can type your posting directly into the message box at the *Budget Controversies* bulletin board at the course online. Do not Email this assignment to me or use the WebCT “assignments” feature to post your analysis.

References can include newspapers, periodicals, Web sites, or even interviews, but please date your access to any reference. Also, review the section “Grading Essays” in the syllabus for further information on how this assignment will be evaluated.