

Municipality Development Journal from Dr. Yonghong Wu of the University of Illinois at Chicago

The second assignment is to keep a journal on **economic development** initiatives by a particular municipal government. It has several parts:

- Each student must select a municipality in Illinois.
- The journal must ultimately contain **three entries of one or two pages each** (plus supporting graphs or tables, if any).
 - The first entry is an overview of the revenues and expenditures of the local government you choose. It should include a description of all major sources from which the government obtains its revenue, the contribution of different sources to government finance, and major spending categories.
 - The second entry is a detailed description of major industries in the municipality and economic development programs initiated by the government in recent years. It should present how the programs are designed and implemented.
 - The final entry should analyze the impact of the major economic development programs, and the responding behavior by businesses, consumers, and other relevant parties. You also need to discuss the strength and weakness of the programs with some specific recommendations for the government to achieve better outcome.

The students must submit his or her journal to the instructor **on two occasions**: March 7 and May 2. **Late journals will be downgraded.** When the journal is handed in on March 7, it must contain the first and second entry as described above. When the journal is handed in on May 2, it must contain the third required entry together with the first two entries.

The following sources are helpful in finishing your assignments in this class:

Government Finance Officers Association (<http://www.gfoa.org>)

International City/County Management Association (<http://www.icma.org/go.cfm>)

National Conference of State Legislators (<http://www.ncsl.org/>)

National Governor's Association (<http://www.ncsl.org/>),

National League of Cities (http://www.nlc.org/nlc_org/site/)

National Tax Association (<http://www.ntanet.org/>)

U.S. Census of Governments (<http://www.census.gov/govs/www/index.html>)

U.S. Conference of Mayors (<http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/home.asp>)