

National Budget Simulation Lab Project

Background:

- You are a member of a subcommittee of the Congressional Budget Committee.
- Your committee has decided that the budget deficit is too high and have decided to trim the next budget by \$500 billion dollars.
- Your job is to take the budget and adjust each budget item until you have cut the required amount out of the budget.

Instructions:

- Go to <http://www.nathannewman.org/nbs/>
- Read the information about the simulation and the conventions that they use in constructing the simulation.
- On the right side of the page, click on "Playing the Game: Short Version – 2006".
- Adjust each budget item up or down until you get to the end. If you aren't sure what each one is simply click on the item & you will link to a description of the item.
- The following budget items are entitlements and are considered "untouchable" by your committee:**
 - Veteran's & Retired Military Pensions & Services**
 - Medicare**
 - Civilian Retirement**
 - Aid to Low Income Families**
 - Social Security**
 - Net Interest**
- When you reach the end, click on "Find out what the budget is".
- Examine your budget.
 - If you have cut \$500 billion from the budget, print a copy of the page showing your budget and savings and go to the written portion of this project.
 - If you have not cut \$500 billion from the budget, click on "Tinker with your budget" and continue to work on the budget until you have reach your goal. When you reach your goal, print a copy of the page that shows your budget and savings and go to the written part of the project.

Written portion of the project:

- You need to predict the possible political consequences of your budget for the Congress & the President.
- For each budget item that you reduced:
 - Predict the amount of political fallout you will receive from the public
 - Predict the portion of the public that will protest (old, young, educated, white collar, etc)
 - Predict special interest groups that may protest the change in the budget
 - Did you raise funding for any item(s)? Will this offset the political fallout for reductions?
- You may format this information in any way you wish, but it must be typed using a font on 12 on one side of the paper only. No more than one typed page please. Be sure to include your name.

Note: I am looking for college-level explanations here, not something you throw together in 2 minutes. I want to see proof, in your writing, that you understand the governmental process, the inter-relationships between governmental agencies, and that you understand the relationships between the public, the government, and issues.