

## Mr. Garry's Balanced Budget Research Paper Assignment – November 27<sup>th</sup> 2009

**Background:** The national debt, boosted by expansionary fiscal and monetary policies in response to the current recession, is growing at an accelerated rate. It has recently passed the \$12 trillion mark. With the value of the dollar declining against other world currencies, this is a frightening thing for most Americans. Most would say, if asked, that yes, the federal government should have to balance its budget just like any household does, just like all the states have to do. But should it? This is the question I am posing to each of you as you conclude your class on macroeconomics.

**General Guidelines:** Whatever you think, and as far as I am concerned for purposes of this assignment, there is no absolutely correct answer. This is where learned economic theory and personal opinion must be reconciled for and by each student independently. But the position/thesis that you take for this assignment must be supported by economic theory accepted by proponent economists' positions on the issue. Hint – do not base your opinion and your research effort on what you think your teacher believes.

You will have until December 15<sup>th</sup> to do the necessary research and writing of a paper justifying your opinions and ideas by addressing the topic issues provided as a subtitle on the provided sample title page. Your paper's grade will count for a full project/test grade. A rubric (*specific guidelines*) for this assignment is attached for your personal use.

No, this paper will not count for your final exam in AP Macro. Many of you, based on your GPA for the semester and your attendance record, per Mr. Nix's finals policy, may not even have to take a final exam.

From this day forward, there will be no more daily assignments to compete for your study time before the end of the semester. However, I will make daily-assignment (extra credit) opportunities available for those who need/desire them.

I will try to schedule at least two class session days in the library with access to computers for individual research before the paper is due (sooner than later if possible).

**APA or MLA Format:** You may use either format for your research paper. The choice is up to you, but do be consistent. A good on-line guide for these formats, as well as other research writing tips, is available at <http://www.liu.edu/CWIS/CWP/library/workshop/citation.htm>.

The length of your paper should be at least three full pages of double-spaced text, not counting the Title page (see the back of this page), plus a works-cited/reference page. This is a minimum for any kind of grade. If pages include graphics, additional text in the same amount of space taken up by the graphics shall be required to meet the minimum requirement. The maximum length of the paper should not exceed five pages.

**Plagiarism** – you all know what this is and you all know what the consequences are for violating WHS's cheating policy. No one can afford to get a ZERO on this assignment.

**On-line sources.** The graphs, supporting data and sources used in your teacher's introductory lesson on federal revenues sources and spending are downloadable from the AP Downloads page at my school web presence ([http://classroom.wisd.org/webs/kgarry/ap\\_macro\\_downloads.htm](http://classroom.wisd.org/webs/kgarry/ap_macro_downloads.htm)) and may be used in your paper. Other possible sources include but are not limited to:

**Deficit Spending** ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deficit\\_spending](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deficit_spending))

**Why Did Clinton Win** ([http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=why\\_did\\_clinton\\_win\\_3197](http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=why_did_clinton_win_3197))

**Problems Enforcing the Balanced Budget** (<http://www.jstor.org/pss/1122319>)

**Balanced Budget Amendment** ([http://uspolitics.about.com/od/thefederalbudget/i/balanced\\_budget\\_2.htm](http://uspolitics.about.com/od/thefederalbudget/i/balanced_budget_2.htm))

**Sample**

## **Balancing the Federal Budget**

*How to Close the Nation's Deficit Spending Gap,  
Whether Deficit Spending at the Federal Level Really  
Matters, and Whether a Balanced Budget Amendment to  
the Constitution is Necessary or Even Advisable*

**A term paper for Mr. Garry's  
Advanced Placement Macroeconomics Class**

**December 15<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**Waxahachie High School, Waxahachie, Texas**

**Sample**

# Mr. Garry's Balanced Budget Research Paper Rubric

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes Test:** You must receive all "yeses" for your paper to be graded. Any "no" will stop the process.

Yes	No	Basic Requirements
		1. Paper typed/keyboarded
		2. Thesis clearly stated (balanced federal budget recommended or not) in introduction and referenced in the conclusion
		3. Correct documentation style used in text
		4. Minimum 4 sources (1 class textbook, 1hard-copy library book or periodical, and 1 or more Internet)
		5. Works Cited/Bibliography or References accurate and correctly formatted
		6. Paper written in 3 <sup>rd</sup> person; content not personal essay but non-biased research
		7. Paper meets minimum length standard (4 pages <u>not counting the Title page</u> but including a Works Cited/Bibliography or References page, three full double-spaced pages of text)
		8. Evidence of consistent and conscientious editing

4—Clearly a knowledgeable, practiced, skilled pattern

3—Evidence of a developing pattern

2—Superficial, random, limited consistencies

1—Unacceptable skill application

## Use of Sources

Skill application demonstrates use which represents →	4	3	2	1
Researched information appropriately documented				
Enough outside information to clearly represent a research process				
Demonstrates use of paraphrasing, direct, and indirect quotations				
Information connects to the thesis				
Sources on Works Cited/Bibliography or References accurately match sources cited within the text				

\_\_\_\_\_/20

## Content/Organization

Skill application demonstrates use which represents →	4	3	2	1
Introduction engaging and clearly defines thesis				
Content connecting to thesis is clarifying, exploring, explaining, developing				
Text organization flows sensibly and smoothly				
Mixture of personal voice interwoven with research (commentary)				
Conclusion thoughtful, engaging, and clear				

\_\_\_\_\_/20

## Mechanics/Usage/Spelling/Format

Skill application demonstrates use which represents →	4	3	2	1
Pagination (bottom right)				
12 point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins all around				
Usage/Grammar				
Correct paragraphing				
Written in formal style				

\_\_\_\_\_/20

## Information Literacy

Skill application demonstrates use which represents →	4	3	2	1
Consistent Format (APA or MLA)				
Documentation demonstrates conscientious application of citing ethics				
Evidence of sorting and selecting appropriate material				
Evidence of importance of author's credibility and validity				
Research offers non-biased, fair research perspective from which a conclusion is drawn				
Research information goes beyond surface information				

\_\_\_\_\_/24

Comments on back.

**Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_/84 **Total Percentage:** \_\_\_\_\_%