

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

## **Lab: Appropriation Adventure MAKEUP ASSIGNMENT**

**Remember: As per GHHS Policy, you have two days for each day absent to makeup assignments.**

### **What We Did in Class:**

Students worked in teams of eight with each student taking on the role of a senator or a lobbyist. Debating within those roles, students balanced the U.S. Federal Budget to eliminate the deficit. It is not possible for you to make up this roleplay activity, so you will learn similar information by watching a video then balancing the budget yourself.

### **Your Assignment:**

Watch the video <https://tinyurl.com/y267h95r> and answer the following

1. What is an Interest Group and how do they influence the “iron triangle”?
2. Where does the term lobbyist come from?
3. Identify two of the interest groups described in the video.
4. What is money from interest groups spent on?
5. Describe positive things that interest groups might do.
6. Describe negative things that interest groups might do.
7. How do you think interest groups might influence the federal budget?

(continued on back)

**Balance the Budget! Total Receipts must equal or exceed Total Spending!**

<u>Simplified 2023 U.S. Federal Budget</u> <small>primary sources: Congressional Budget Office &amp; DataLab</small>	<b>2023</b>	<b>YOUR PROPOSED</b>	
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$</b> <small>(in billions)</small>	<b>\$</b> <small>(in billions)</small>	<b>% change</b>
Individual Income Taxes	2,200		
Social Security & Payroll Tax (employer withheld taxes)	1,600		
Corporate Income Taxes	420		
Excise Taxes (sin taxes)	30		
Customs Duties (foreign transactions)	80		
Estate & Gift Taxes	30		
Other Taxes & Earnings	40		
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$4,400</b>		
<b>Spending</b>	<b>\$</b> <small>(in billions)</small>	<b>\$</b> <small>(in billions)</small>	<b>% change</b>
Social Security	1,342	1,342	0.00%
Medicare, Medicaid	1,462	1,462	0.00%
National Defense & Homeland Security	882		
Net Debt Interest	659	659	0.00%
Labor & Housing (unemployment, child nutrition, income security)	448		
General Government (operations, legislation, other discretionary spending)	347		
Agriculture	169		
Veterans Benefits & Services	131		
Health & Human Services	127		
Education	125		
Transportation	115		
International Affairs	83		
Administration of Justice (prisons, borders, FBI)	74		
Natural Resources (NOAA, FWS, corp of engineers)	48		
Energy	48		
General Science, Space & Technology	40		
<b>Total Spending</b>	<b>\$6,100</b>		

Budget amounts that are already printed into the "Your Proposed" column are called mandatory spending, because that spending is written into law and is unable to be changed in appropriation acts.

**Analysis Questions:**

1. What role did the lobbyists play in influencing senators decisions about the budget?
2. Discuss the difficulties you had in achieving a balanced budget.
3. Why do you think the U.S. Federal Government has not had a balanced budget since 2001?
4. What effects (if any) does an unbalanced budget have on the economic prosperity of the United States?
5. With Natural Resources comprising 0.65% of the federal budget, how do you think this reflects the priorities and ability to respond to environmental issues in the United States?