**Balancing the Federal Budget**

**Introduction:**  *While you attempt to balance the federal budget, make sure you take notes on the grid sheet hand-out as to what you did to try to balance the federal budget (what you cut or changed, and how much of an effect each decision had).*

**DAY 1 – Wednesday: A Committee of One 🡪 Develop your own proposal**

**Directions***:*

* *Go to* [**Budget Puzzle: You Fix the Budget**](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2010/11/13/weekinreview/deficits-graphic.html?scp=1&sq=balance%20the%20federal%20budget&st=cse)
* *Answer the following questions – bullet-point format is acceptable. Each student should submit a completed notes / grid sheet + question sheet.*

1. Overall, did you decide to cut spending or increase taxes? Chances are, you did both, so make sure you write down what percentage of your decision came from cuts, which what came from raising taxes. Why did you make these decisions?

2. Name the program/ decision that was the most difficult for you to decide on. It can be a decision to KEEP something rather than CUT it. Why was this decision difficult for you?

3. Name the program/ decision that was the easiest for you to decide on. It can be a decision to KEEP something rather than CUT it. Why was this decision easy for you?

4. On the back of the sheet, LIST 3 questions you still have about the federal budget.