Engage: Fiscal policy and the national debt

The taxing and spending decisions of our federal government determines whether our national debt expands or contract. In this Bell Ringer exercise, students will deliberate on historical figures’ thinking about our country’s debt and identify changes in fiscal policy that affected the size of our national debt throughout U.S. history. Follow this historical perspective with a look at fiscal issues facing our own generation. Use the video, charts, and article from the Atlanta Fed’s Fiscal Math Is Daunting to launch a discussion.
Teach: Online course on fiscal policy

Register as an instructor, and then enroll your students in the online course on fiscal policy. Assign the course to conduct a more in-depth assessment of your students’ understanding of the process by which Congress and the president work to promote economic stabilization. The course includes a pretest and posttest as well as checks their knowledge after each module. Students’ scores are entered in your individual gradebook included in the instructor management panel.

Practice: Fiscal and monetary policy two-step

Assign this activity to help your students identify the key differences between fiscal and monetary policy. Students will examine quotes from a variety of news sources from 2010 to 2012 to determine if the quote refers to fiscal or monetary policy actions.

Assess: Infographic activity on fiscal and monetary policy

Help your students test their understanding of fiscal and monetary policy with this activity that accompanies the Fiscal and Monetary Policy infographic. Students will complete a questionnaire about the basic concepts featured on the infographic. Then, students will analyze a series of headlines and articles to demonstrate their ability to differentiate between the two types of policy.