**Chapter Twelve - Writing & Project Assignments**

**Writing**

1. Discuss the historical and cultural origins of the Texas county system. How did these influences shape the current system?

CT, COMM

1. Discuss the current system for funding county governments. What are the potential benefits and drawbacks to this system?

CT, COMM, SR

1. Compare and contrast the concept of local governments in Ohio and Texas.

CT, COMM, SR

**Projects**

1. Break students into groups and ask them to create a new city. They should make a list of city powers and functions they wish to negotiate with their county government. During their presentation, ask students to explain which system of government (strong-mayor and council, weak-mayor and council, or council-city manager) they will choose and why.

CT, COMM, PR, SR

1. Break students into groups of four or less. Students should research the 2013 changes in Home Owners Association laws. Once students have researched the existing law and current complaints, they should draft their own amendments to the law and present them before the class. Encourage students to critique the amendments created by other groups.

<http://www.texashoalaw.com/2013-texas-legislature-enacts-new-hoa-laws/>

CT, COMM, PR, SR