**Chapter Thirteen - Writing & Project Assignments**

**Writing**

1. Trace the history of taxation in the state of Texas. How has the usage of property tax changed over time?

CT, COMM

1. Compare and contrast the different taxation tools available to the state government? What are the benefits and drawbacks of each type of taxation?

CT, COMM, SR

1. Compare and contrast progressive and regressive taxes. Which type of tax is most fair for citizens of different economics means and why?

CT, COMM, SR

**Projects**

1. Break students into groups and ask them to research one part the “Robin Hood” debate over funding public education in Texas. Groups should choose to research one of the following topics and make a presentation before the entire class.
   * History of the debate
   * Key changes to the law
   * Problems identified in the media
   * Proposed solutions

Once the groups have each presented their research, engage the students in a discussion of how alternative methods for financing public education in Texas.

CT, COMM, PR, SR

1. Break students into groups of four or less. Ask students to visit the state comptroller’s website and investigate the budget of a state agency. Students should, in groups, attempt to trace with concrete examples how the agency spends its budget. In a presentation before the class, the students should offer their explanation of the agency’s spending and discuss how likely it is that an average citizen would be able to acquire answers about state spending through the comptroller’s transparency website.

CT, COMM, PR, SR