**Chapter Six - Writing & Project Assignments**

**Writing**

1. Compare and contrast the patronage and merit system of bureaucratic staffing. What are the merits and disadvantages of both systems? Which system would be best for Texas and why?

CT, COMM

1. Pick one of the offices of the plural executive and examine their duties. Find evidence of success and failure for the current officeholder. Establish a rubric for judging the officeholder’s overall performance.

CT, COMM, SR

1. Of the various boards and commissions covered, which is the most important for the future of the state of Texas? Why?

CT, COMM, SR

**Projects**

1. Organize your class into groups and ask the students to select a Texas bureaucratic agency. Once they have made their selection, assign them to a problem (e.g. elder abuse, high school dropout rates, etc). The students must research the problem and the agency and give a short presentation addressing the following questions:

* How would you define the problem? Be sure to explain the different aspects of the problem you have been assigned.
* What successes does your agency have to its credit?
* What are the major failures and oversights of your agency?
* Overall, how successful has your agency been resolving the problem?

CT, COMM, PR, SR

1. Organize your class into groups and assign them to a problem. (e.g. elder abuse, highway maintenance, food stamps administration, human trafficking, etc). Ask your students to investigate the actions of the appropriate state agency. Once they have reviewed current strategies to solve this problem, ask students to develop their own program to tackle the problem.

CT, COMM, PR, SR