

Group Lesson  
1 class period (with extension)

*A People's Guide to the Federal Budget*  
Chapter 3

## ***The Political Spectrum***

Objective:

Students will be able to place issues on a political spectrum and identify where they are most likely to position themselves

**Description:**

1. On a classroom wall post the numbers 1-10 on 8x11 sheets of paper. 1 is most conservative. 10 is most liberal.
2. On sticky notes write the following and give one set to each group (one word/phrase per card). (Note: feel free to add others.)
  - ⤴ Pro choice under all circumstances
  - ⤴ Pro-life except for rape or incest
  - ⤴ Increase taxes on top 1% of earners
  - ⤴ No bailouts for companies
  - ⤴ Increase military spending
  - ⤴ Increase environmental regulation
  - ⤴ Pro-unions
  - ⤴ Privatize education
  - ⤴ Decriminalize marijuana
  - ⤴ Anti gay marriage
  - ⤴ Pro nuclear power
  - ⤴ Anti nuclear weapons
  - ⤴ No women in combat
  - ⤴ Race should be a factor in college admissions
  - ⤴ Public access to all public buildings
3. Have student groups decide where on the spectrum each sticky note should be placed.
4. Once all are posted, hold a full-class discussion.
5. Ask the students to write a short reflection on their individual position on three of the above statements.
6. Extension Activity: Ask the students to find an OpEd or letter to the editor in a newspaper that clearly has a liberal or conservative bias. Ask them to write a five-paragraph commentary on how and why they believe it is liberal or conservative. Ask them to also articulate their personal views in relation to the author's opinions.