



## **Lesson Plan: "Government vs. Private Spending: Efficiency and Trade-Offs"**

### **Objective:**

Students will evaluate the efficiency of government and private spending, analyzing the trade-offs, benefits, and inefficiencies associated with each. They will apply these concepts to real-world and fictional examples.

### **Materials Needed:**

- *Game of Thrones* clip discussing The Hand's Tournament and government spending.
- Handouts with examples of government and private spending inefficiencies and successes.
- Charts comparing public and private sector spending in areas like healthcare, infrastructure, and education.

### **Lesson Steps:**

#### **1. Introduction (10 minutes):**

- Define and compare **government spending** and **private spending**, highlighting their roles in the economy.
- Discuss the potential benefits of government spending (e.g., public goods, infrastructure) and the risk of inefficiency (e.g., misallocation, bureaucratic delays).
- Explain how private spending is often driven by profit motives, which can lead to greater efficiency but may neglect public welfare.

#### **2. Viewing Clip (5 minutes):**

- Show the *Game of Thrones* clip discussing The Hand's Tournament, where government spending on lavish events comes under scrutiny.
- Set the stage: Highlight the concept of misallocated resources and how it reflects real-world inefficiencies in public spending.

#### **3. Group Discussion (10 minutes):**

- Divide students into small groups to discuss:
  - What inefficiencies are evident in The Hand's Tournament example?
  - How might private spending differ in prioritizing and allocating resources?
  - When is government spending necessary, and when might it lead to waste?

#### **4. Concept Application (20 minutes):**

- **Case Study Comparison:**
  - Provide real-world examples for comparison:
    - Successful government spending (e.g., the interstate highway system, public health programs).
    - Inefficient government spending (e.g., “bridge to nowhere” projects, corruption).
    - Efficient private spending (e.g., tech innovation, private healthcare systems).
    - Instances where private spending has failed (e.g., environmental harm, neglect of underserved communities).
  - Ask students to analyze these examples using the following questions:
    - What drives efficiency or inefficiency in each case?
    - Who benefits, and who bears the costs?
    - How do accountability and incentives differ in government vs. private spending?

#### **5. Wrap-Up and Reflection (10 minutes):**

- Summarize the key takeaways:
  - Government spending can ensure equity and provide public goods but risks inefficiency.
  - Private spending drives innovation and efficiency but may neglect public welfare.
- Pose a discussion question: How can governments and private sectors work together to maximize efficiency and fairness?

#### **6. Activity/Homework (15 minutes):**

- **Creative Thinking Exercise:**
  - Divide students into groups to brainstorm a good provided by the public sector (e.g., transportation, education, healthcare, postal service, swimming pools, parks).
  - Discuss whether this good should primarily be funded and managed by the government or private sector.
  - Have each group presents their reasoning, highlighting trade-offs and proposing ways to balance efficiency and equity.