

Preparation for the Appropriations Process Class

1. Figure out where Bolivia is, and what state Brazoria County is located in. Oh, and make sure you know the definition of segue.
2. Look at Florida's current General Appropriations Act (don't spend more than 30 minutes total, but notice the organization by Section and, within Sections, by agency in alphabetical order):
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/House/bills/amendments/pdf/hb5001e1561933.pdf>

You can also look at other related stuff:

- Performance Measures and Standards for State Agencies and the Judicial Branch:
<http://www.floridaperforms.com/Agencies.aspx>
- Florida's Official Estimates of Population, Revenues, Medicaid, Student Enrollment, etc:
<http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/index.cfm#social-services>
- Instructions to State Agencies and the Judicial Branch for preparation of their 2010-2011 Legislative Budget Requests:
<http://floridafiscalportal.state.fl.us/PDFDoc.aspx?ID=2228>
- Governor's Recommended Budget for 2010-2011:
<http://www.ebudget.state.fl.us/>

3. On one side of a 3x5 card (or piece of paper . . . or wood or flattened Styrofoam cup, why do we care?) write a program or service that the state funds (or should fund) and that you think is really important. You have to be specific - you can't say "education" or "health care" or "the environment" - but stuff like "free access to state parks for families" or "more funding for dental care for rural kids" or "hire more highway patrol officers" or "keep advertising orange juice" or "keep the Coconut Grove Playhouse open" is okay.

4. On the other side of your 3x5 object, write a state program or service that you don't like. Again, you have to be specific, like "fewer state parks" (all that sun's really bad for you), "less family planning" (we all know that really means abortion clinics), "fewer highway patrol officers" (what the hell, let's go for "none" and we can all get home really fast), "stop advertising orange juice" (Brazil's putting us out of business anyway), or "Coconut Grove Playhouse" (pieces of the building fall on your hear as you walk in).

5. Bring ten pennies. Everybody gets their money back. We're going to pretend each one is millions of dollars, so you really will want them back.

6. We will each build part of the Florida budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year (yes I am being easy on you compared to the current year!). Don't worry, we'll stick to only the \$24 billion General Revenue portion of the budget, so don't bring a calculator - you can do the math in your head (plus I rounded the numbers for people who don't think they can do math).

7. Read any Newbery Medal or Honor book. These are books you'll read to your children and if you're going to do a good state budget, you'd better be thinking that far ahead (plus they are quite good, even for adults, and are a lot more fun than books about government). If you have little kids, you can go with a Caldecott Medal book.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberymedal.cfm>