



# STUDY GUIDE

## HOW TO SOLVE AMERICA'S SPENDING PROBLEM

### KEY TERMS:

debt  
enact

deficit  
budget

reform

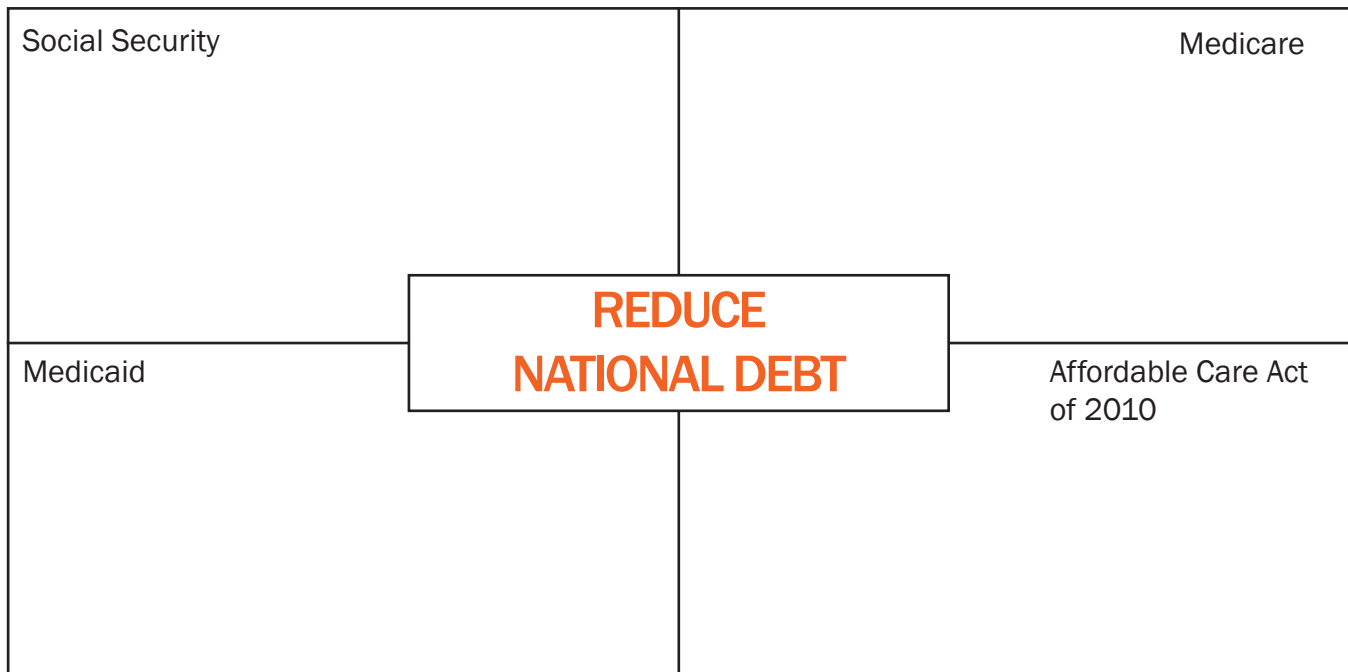
CUE COLUMN: Complete this section <i>after</i> the video.	NOTE-TAKING COLUMN: Complete this section <i>during</i> the video. Include definitions and key terms.
<p>What effect has government spending on the three legacy assistance programs had on America's national debt?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>National Debt</b></li><li>• <b>Social Security</b></li><li>• <b>Medicare</b></li><li>• <b>Medicaid</b></li><li>• <b>Affordable Care Act of 2010</b></li><li>• <b>Solutions</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Increase taxes.</li><li>2.</li></ol></li></ul>
<p><b>SUMMARY OF NOTES:</b> Complete this section <i>after</i> the lecture to review the video.</p> <p>Evaluate each government program discussed in this video in relation to the national debt. Identify how America's debt problem can be resolved.</p>	

## DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Examine the national budget and how spending on the legacy assistance programs has changed since the inception of each.
- Propose an updated Social Security plan that reflects the longer average life span of U.S. citizens. How would your plan affect the national budget?
- Compare government discretionary spending in 1970 and 2012.
- Explain the Congressional Budget Office's projections for the cost of the four government assistance programs over the next forty years.

## EXTEND THE LEARNING:

- The video discusses the four assistance programs provided by the national government. Using the graphic organizer below, outline steps the government could take to reduce America's national debt.



## RESOURCES TO EXPLORE:

- The U.S. National Debt: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/infographics/us-national-debt>
- Official Social Security Website: <http://www.ssa.gov>
- Social Security and Pension Reform: International Perspective by Marek Szczepanski and John A. Turner
- How Social Security Works: <http://money.howstuffworks.com/personal-finance/financial-planning/social-security.htm>
- How Medicare Works: <http://www.medicare.gov/supplement-other-insurance/how-medicare-works-with-other-insurance/how-medicare-works-with-other-insurance.html>
- Medicaid: <http://medicaid.gov>
- Affordable Care Act of 2010: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/rights/law/>