



## Let's Talk Taxes

They say the only certain things in life are death and taxes. These resources explore the taxes Americans pay, how tax rates are determined, and how tax revenue is used.

### Conversation Questions

1. Do Americans pay too much, the right amount, or not enough local, state, and federal taxes?
2. What should be the priorities for spending tax revenue?
3. What are the pros and cons of different tax philosophies?

### Key Definitions *(from Investopedia)*

- *Progressive tax* – a tax that takes a larger percentage from high-income earners than it does from low-income individuals
- *Regressive tax* – a tax that takes a larger percentage from low-income earners than from high-income earners
- *Flat tax* – a system that applies the same tax rate to every taxpayer regardless of income bracket

### Read

#### ***What Are Taxes?* by Lynnae D. Steinberg**

ebook

Steinberg breaks down the concepts of taxes and government funding for early elementary readers. The author also provides a history of taxes starting from Ancient Roman times.

#### ***Paying Taxes* by Sarah De Capua**

Youth Easy Nonfiction 336.2 D

This easy-to-understand book for grades 3-5 explains the different types of taxes, why they are paid, and what they support.

#### ***Taxes in America: What Everyone Needs to Know* by Leonard Burman**

Adult Nonfiction 336.2 B PBK

Personal income tax, business income tax, sales tax, property taxes—it can all be quite confusing. Burman breaks it down for readers interested in understanding the American tax system.





## Websites

### **“Understanding Taxes: The Quick and Simple Way to Understand Your Taxes” from the Internal Revenue Service**

<http://ow.ly/Xajk30iFSP8>

The Internal Revenue Service provides information to help teachers instruct and students learn about the tax system in the United States.

### **“What Are the Differences between Regressive, Proportional and Progressive Taxes?” from *Investopedia***

<http://ow.ly/hNiV30iFME3>

You may have heard the terms “regressive tax,” “proportional tax,” and “progressive tax” tossed around. This resource moves past politics while explaining each.

### **“Comparative Tax Tables Worldwide” from the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development**

<http://goo.gl/8x6TF9>

These tables compare tax rates around the world.

## Listen

### **“Are You Ready to File Your 2017 Tax Return?” from *Your Tax Teacher***

<http://ow.ly/752j30iErLg>

Podcaster Jeff England reminds us that tax season is here and it’s time to file for 2017. Don’t stress, be prepared!

## Watch

### **“Taxes: Crash Course Economics” from *Crash Course***

[https://youtu.be/7Qtr\\_vA3Prw](https://youtu.be/7Qtr_vA3Prw)

This video offers a crash course in all things taxes: what they are, how they’re assessed, and how revenue is used.

