

## Writing Assignment 2

## Economics 304

Public choice refers to that area of economics devoted to the study of politics using the methods of economics. As in other applications of economics, a representative individual is the basic building block of public choice analysis—in this case, a representative voter, politician, bureaucrat, regulator, or lobbyist. The individual is assumed to face a choice among alternatives, to have a preference among those alternatives, and to choose the alternative that is most consistent with his (or her) preference. Thus, the objective of public choice analysis is to explain the aggregate outcomes of individuals making choices in specific political settings.

A prominent public choice economist (and Nobel prize winner), James Buchanan, refers to it as “[Politics without Romance](#).” Another way of saying this is Buchanan’s works has tried to take the halo off government, politicians, etc.

Watch the following video that provides an overview of public choice theory.

Antony Davies: Why Government Fails, Explained

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxmXeLEcs9s&t=110s>

Your assignment is to think critically about two topics of your choice that were discussed.

In no more than 1 page single-spaced

- 1.) Summarize the topic / argument / etc. What was the main point? What evidence did the speakers use to support their point? Et cetera.
- 2.) Critically examining and react to the topic / argument / etc. Do you agree with the point they are making? Use material from class or economics in general to think about the topic.

There is quite a bit of freedom involved in this assignment. You will be graded based on the quality of the topics you choose and on your insights / critical thinking about each topic. I will also consider writing flow and grammar when grading.