



WHY TAXES MATTER

LESSON TOPICS

1. Taxes are Mandatory and Will Be Enforced

Taxes are mandatory and individuals do not get to decide to voluntarily contribute to the government. Enforcement on taxes can be done monetarily through penalties, interest imposed, and levies. Most commonly a levy will be taken from some sort of property you have especially cash in bank accounts that they are aware of. The government may also impose criminal charges and/or jail time in the most severe situations. These situations usually contain fraudulent activity or negligence. Make sure to consider the consequences of not filing when it comes to your business. Banks may not let you get a loan if you do not file or have outstanding tax liabilities. When it comes to business taxes to renew your business licenses, the state or local taxing authorities may walk into your establishment and shut your doors.

2. What are Taxes Imposed on?

Taxes are imposed on gross revenue, net profit, property that you own, consumer goods that you purchase, and even on your estate in the event of your passing.

3. Credits and Social Programs

Individuals wanting to tackle taxes on their own should visit [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov) where there is an approved list of organizations that can help with taxes. There are many scams out there that try to take advantage of taxpayers, so make sure to go to [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov) for safe tax filing. For state purposes, individuals can receive assistance through the department of revenue website or by calling their office.

If you do not want to tackle taxes on your own, you can receive assistance from an enrolled agent, a tax preparation service, a CPA, or a tax attorney.