

**Budget Story**  
J335 Spring 2018  
Wagner

Counts as Government Reporting  
Length 450-500 Words  
Deadline: 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Governor Walker gave his 2107-2019 budget address on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. The final budget is now law.

<https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/StateFinances/CurrentBiennialBudget.aspx>

You are to write a story about some element of the budget that impacts an issue you think is newsworthy – ideally, you would write about how the budget affects a Madison neighborhood(s) or community group(s)/civic organization(s).

You should include at least one quote from Gov. Walker from the 2018 State of the State address. You should also scour the web (i.e. politicians' websites, UW's website, Twitter, Facebook) for statements from others about the budget that you might include in your story. You might also call sources yourself and get their reaction (politicians, experts, etc.). Be sure to attribute your quotes appropriately.

Budget stories should contain clear facts (size of budget) and some simple statistics that you learned in J202 (percent change (increase/decrease) for particular budget items).

The story must be written in AP style. Aim to have a compelling lede and a clear, engaging nut graf. The story should also contain quotes from sources you obtain in your reporting – these may be from speeches and press releases but can also come from your own original reporting. If you call a source, you should identify yourself to any sources as “X, doing a story on the governor’s budget for possible publication in *Madison Commons*, an online news outlet here in Madison.” List all sources, their title (if appropriate), and contact information (i.e. phone number or email) at the bottom of the story (including Gov. Walker). The source list does not count as part of the word count of the story. I reserve the right to check in with your sources.

One last requirement: you must write five proposed headlines for your story.

Turn in your story via Canvas by 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 13, 2018