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EN202-03
E-PORTFOLIO

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Austerity Within the CNMI: A Brief Study on The CNMI's Efforts to Recover from Deficit

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Abstract

A Northern Marianas College student develops an original, 14-week study to investigate the possible succession of the current austerity implementation within the CNMI. Cabrera wanted to inform readership of the major impacts deterring individuals from seeking career choices within the government sector as well as the perspectives of austerity being a minor solution to an even larger financial mess. Cabrera sought to find out how the general student population of Northern Marianas College feels on the current austerity implementation. By conducting two separate surveys; the pilot survey acquiring 16 responses and the final survey acquiring 12 responses, student researcher Cabrera had gathered a recurring trend of doubt and distrust among respondents. Both local and international literature was found which delves into the major impact austerity has on the island community as well as communities within Great Britain. Key impacts consist of businesses experiencing low revenue generation as well as the healthcare system which experience an influx of patients due to the cessation of specified health services and programs. This study is rather crucial as it uncovers the very intricacies of an occurring political practice that is heavily depended on to bring financial relief.

Austerity Within the CNMI: A Brief Study on The CNMI's Efforts to Recover from Deficit

Austerity has become a source of relief for the CNMI government as it is heavily depended to alleviate recurring forms of financial deficit. With past implementations of austerity within the years 2006 as well as 2010, the current austerity implementation of 2019 is set to alleviate a shortfall of approximately \$89.9 million (Encinares, 2019). However, this current financial step has provoked confusion among the people of the CNMI. The very intricacies of its implementation continue to raise questions regarding its effectiveness on lessening the CNMI's debt. Despite having been in effect for some time, austerity has caused a domino effect within the island community; impacting the business community, disrupting education services, and cutting the pay of government employees. However, despite such an immense impact, several details surrounding this current matter remain unknown to the public. Concerns about the actual amount of money to be saved, projected budget restorations, and the appropriation of such funds endure to cross-examine the true purpose of these austerity measures. Now, the question remains: will this current implementation deem successful? This academic essay will investigate both local and international literature as well as primary data collected through surveys to construct a definitive answer as to whether or not the current austerity implementation will be successful.

Literature Review

The current austerity implementation has erupted numerous issues that have heavily affected the island community. Although such measures were implemented to better the current fiscal climate, these measures have made its way into the business community as well as the healthcare system. A Saipan Tribune, authored by Jon Perez, elaborates the drop of business sales and revenue caused by the decrease of government employee expenditures. Alongside that, Perez emphasizes the heavy reliance set upon the tourist industry for economic stabilization; stating that, "tourist arrivals" are depended to "in order to bring back

health to our economy” (Perez, 2019). As alluded throughout the article, such financial-cutting measures have resulted in government employees spending less on household items while also budgeting their household expenditures to survive the fiscal year. Apace with the great impact austerity has on the business community, similar issues have erupted with the Commonwealth Health Corporation or CHC. According to a Marianas Variety article by Lori Lyn Lirio, governmental austerity measures will not be followed as CHC cannot “we are not able to simply scale back hours or services” (Lirio, 2019). However, the measures within the CHC division consist of the reduction of off-island traveling for training services as well as lessening the number of non-essential projects or investments. Lirio goes on to further list the reasons for the implementation of such measures within the healthcare system.

“Uncompensated care costs”, “lack of insurance availability for individuals”, and “[not enough] Medicaid funding” are only several causes to the financial downfall within the CHC division. Despite that, austerity seems to be a common and immediate alternative to alleviating any form of deficit. The information will be useful to the student researcher as it provides an overview of the specific impact(s) austerity has on the island community.

Although numerous issues erupted within the island community, other countries with similar austerity measures have been experiencing the heavy impacts of such measures. According to an academic article, authored by Sasha Abramsky, various issues such as the reduction of grants for surrounding counties, the impact of such measures on low-income individuals (specifically those who are homeless and unemployed), and bankruptcy in the surrounding counties. Abramsky (2019) better illustrates these measures through the life of a middle-aged social worker named Kev Standishday. Several issues were described in Standishday’s life; specifically, the financial struggles of sending his to school through unsubsidized public transportation. Similar to austerity measure in the CNMI—in terms of freezing salary increases and ceasing new hire—Standishday’s “pay [was] essentially frozen

for several years” (Abramsky, 2019). Alongside that, Standishday’s mentions how “recruit[ment] and retain[ing] staff” as “conditions are so poor” (Abramsky, 2019). However, there are further impacts of austerity on England’s workers. Such belt-tightening measures have lowered the living standards of workers, commuting, reducing the funding of the services for low-income families, and the increase of criminal activity throughout the counties. Also “grants given to local governments” have “[decreased] roughly by 60 percent” (Abramsky, 2019). This information provided by the academic article will be useful to student researcher Cabrera as it could be utilized to compare and contrast austerity impacts—negative or positive—between both the CNMI and the country of England.

One particular literature focuses on the impact of austerity on the welfare system and healthcare services of health departments within the country of England. This particular periodical emphasizes how spending cuts have altered the specific section of health departments known as “A&E” or “Accidents & Emergencies” (Kerasidou & Kingori, 2019). The periodical poses as a study which delves into specific perspectives and viewpoints of healthcare professionals. This distinct periodical delves into alteration of the “Accidents & Emergencies” departments due to the high demand for medical services and resources (Kerasidou & Kingori, 2019). This study also presents “moral distress”, “burnout” as well as “feelings of being devalued” which medical professionals within A & E departments experience (Kerasidou & Kingori, 2019). This information is valuable to the student researcher as it delves into a rather personal side of austerity. Although austerity is depended on to alleviate deficit through either decreasing government expenditures or tax increases, it takes a rather extreme toll on an individual’s mental state, work performance, and quality of life.

In a separate article, focus is rather shifted to the impact of austerity on colored women in Great Britain. Major emphasis is placed on this distinct demographic as “dramatic

cuts to public spending” as well as the “privatization of public services” dramatically subject such individuals by impairing their already set economic position (Emejulu & Bassel, 2018). It is rather due to such financial steps that activist groups—consisting of this specific demographic—have begun emerging amidst the period of financial crisis. Such activist groups advocate for service systems/programs that continue to provide “care” to colored women throughout the country of Great Britain. As austerity was heavily relied upon for the 2008 economic crisis, these “care” systems and program had undergone severe funding cuts which ultimately ceased the provision of services from these “care” programs (Emejulu & Bassel, 2018).

Research Questions

By utilizing information found from both local and international literature as well as analyzing primary data collected from surveys, student researcher Cabrera attempts to develop a definitive answer to the preliminary question:

1. In terms of alleviating financial deficit of the CNMI government, will the current austerity implementation be successful?

as well as secondary questions

2. Does austerity play a role in individuals seeking career choices off island?
3. Are there any possible alternatives relative to austerity that can also alleviated the CNMI’s deficit?
4. What parts of the island community is strongly affected by the austerity implementation?
5. Does austerity prove to be an appropriate solution whenever a financial shortfall or deficit occurs?

Methodology

Student researcher Cabrera had composed and distributed a survey to approximately 45 Northern Marianas College English comprehension students. The survey was a ten-question survey piloted to develop a rather “rough draft” set of data collected from peers and the instructor. The survey consisted majorly of open-ended questions with the exception of selective questions to determine several intricacies surrounding the matter of austerity (Appendix A, Figure 1 & 2). The survey was posted electronically to a forum that was made accessible to all students where, after having taken the survey, they would provide feedback on specific questions or concepts that may need revisions. Cabrera’s piloted survey had received feedback and comments from the instructor and a total of 12 peers. Such feedback and comments were composed of suggestions rephrase and revise several survey questions. Apace with that, was the suggestion to include demographic questions to better classify different sets of data (Appendix B, Figure 3 &4). After complete revisions to the survey were made, the student researcher had uploaded an electronic link of the final survey to the same forum about five days later. Demographics were grouped to allow more room for more open-ended questions to be asked. The final survey was complete by one peer (a female, 20, pacific islander) who provided rather positive feedback.

The student researcher, utilizing the same questions in the pilot and final survey, had composed a separate survey for government employees. A major revision was made to the demographic question. A “major” section was added to the final survey as it was primarily distributed to college students; however, this section has been changed to an “office” or “department” section. Questions within the survey will majorly be composed of open-ended questions with the main focus set on measuring the negative effects of this measure. However, the survey is to be distributed to approximately 40 plus government employees from disparate offices/departments; yet, employees within those offices/departments must be

under austerity. The distribution of this seven-question survey is currently on hold as the student researcher is awaiting approval from specific employees whom the student researcher spoke to over the phone. Student researcher Cabrera distributed this survey on October 16 and October 17. The collection of these remain to be determined; however, Cabrera anticipates this collection to be conducted by or before the end of the month of October. The data collected from this specific survey could provide the necessary insight, opinions, or mere information to better address and analyze the current austerity in the CNMI. This specific data is sourced from individuals who suffer this financial measure; encountering the hefty yet negative impacts first-hand.

The student researcher had sent out eight letters to experts on this issue; three to on-island experts and a separate five to experts off-island. The student researcher sent informal emails to politicians on-island, specifically Representative Ed Propst and Representative Tina Sablan. According to prior knowledge, both individuals had voted in disfavor of the financial step. Aside from these individuals, the student researcher also sent a letter to one budget analysts within the CNMI government as they work to analyze the fiscal budget of the entire governmental sector. Aside from this, Cabrera had also sent informal letters to off-island experts. Such experts consist of two authors from articles which the student researcher had found pertaining to international implementations of austerity. Other individuals include an economy expert from Germany. The several questions to be asked are to be pooled from the final survey with additional, complex questions that require their exact expertise.

Results

As of November 7, 2019, both surveys had gathered a total of 28 respondents; 16 respondents belonging to the pilot survey while 12 belong to the final survey. Within the pilot survey, 81.25% of all respondents reported having known about austerity through Social Media (see Appendix C) . However, the final survey reports an equal percentage—58.33%—

of all respondents claim to have known about austerity through both a relative and through a newspaper article (see Appendix D). In both surveys, when asked about the number of people (including the respondent themselves) that are currently under the implementation of austerity, respondents claim to know an average amount of 4 individuals. In conducting these surveys, the student researcher sought information relating to whether or not the current austerity implementation would deter individuals from seeking career choices within the CNMI government (see Appendix E). From the pilot survey a calculated 81.25% said yes while 12.50% said no (Appendix E, figure 1). Now, from the final survey, 50% of all respondents say yes while 41.65% say no (Appendix E, figure 2). When asked for an explanation behind the respondent's answer, those who answered "yes" rather not seek a career within the CNMI government majorly due to the concern of a low salary. Those who responded with no did so as they had prior judgement on what career choice they want, which had no relation to the CNMI government (see Appendix F). Another piece of information which the student researcher sought to retrieve was whether or not the general surveyed population thought of austerity as being the best solution to alleviating the CNMI's deficit (see Appendix G). From the pilot survey, about 75% reported no while 25% reported yes (Appendix G, figure 1). On the other hand, the final survey reported 63.34% answering yes while the latter (36.36%) answered no (Appendix G, figure 2). Each respondent was asked to explain their answer. A recurring trend with those who answered with "no" was that austerity was simply a "Band-Aid to a Flooding Dam". However, those who answered "yes" saw austerity as the ONLY solution to alleviating the CNMI's deficit as well as a precedent that future government officials/leaders will possibly utilize (see Appendix H).

Discussion

Austerity remains as a rather extreme or radical measure which not only affects government functions, but also affects numerous aspects of the island community. This study

was conducted to discern whether or not austerity within the CNMI government will be successful in terms of alleviating the major financial deficit. Extensive research was also conducted to find international literature pertaining to austerity in the CNMI as a way of constructing comparisons and contradiction between two separate regions.

As found within local literature, austerity has reached outside of the government sector and into the private sector. The business community was subject to the decrease of revenue due to the reduction of government employee expenditures (Perez, 2019). As Lirio (2019) had also emphasized, the local healthcare system was also subject to such financial measures to the point where facilities and services were reduced. Such an impact correlates with a study done within the country of England where austerity has altered a specific area the healthcare system known as “A & E” or “Accidents & Emergencies” (Kerasidou & Kingori, 2019). Such a study determined how much of an emotional impact austerity has brought upon healthcare workers as well as professionals.

The surveys conducted by student researcher Cabrera had uncovered new information which pertains with seeking a career within the CNMI and austerity. From those who responded, a majority stated that austerity would deter them from seeking a career within the CNMI government. One particular reason why such individuals argued so is the concern of reduced working hours as well as a reduced salary. Most respondents argued that a low salary will provide zero help in making ends meet. In trying to provide a definitive answer the preliminary question, the student researcher sought a rather personal answer from respondents regarding whether or not austerity is the best solution in alleviating the CNMI’s deficit. After having been analyzed, a recurring trend of doubt and distrust was prevalent among respondents. To summarize such responses and trends, austerity was rather seen as a “Band-Aid to Flooding Dam”.

Research Limitations

Unfortunately, 28 students/respondents are nowhere near 1% of the student population of NMC or of the entire island. If surveys were made accessible to the general public, perhaps results may differ to provide an even more definitive answer to the preliminary question. Additionally, student researcher Cabrera recommended weighing out and heavily analyze the individuals whom are to be interviewed for future research. To collect further qualitative data on this topic, Cabrera suggests the survey to be given to about 1,000 respondents.

Conclusion

Although austerity has become a source of financial relief, it has also become heavily depended on to alleviate recurring forms of financial deficit. Despite such financial measures being specified to the government sector, much of its impact had made its way in the private sector as businesses generate reduced revenue. Alongside that, services and programs within the local healthcare system were disrupted or ceased due the implementation of austerity. An international periodical draws some connection with the disruption of healthcare services due to the influx of patients as well as the cessation of healthcare systems and programs. Surveys found a heightened amount of doubt and distrust in the current austerity implementation. For these specific respondents, austerity has deterred them from seeking a career choice within the CNMI government. Now, in providing a definitive answer as to whether or not the current implementation of austerity be successful, the answer is rather precarious. Austerity may bring relief to financial deficit; however, austerity comes at price. Austerity ultimately causes a chain reaction that heavily impacts numerous aspects of a community whether it be businesses, school, the healthcare system, or even peoples' lives.

Works Cited

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Appendices

Appendix A

1. How did you first hear about the austerity issues in the CNMI?
Check all that apply.

- Newspaper article
- Local news (i.e. KSPN news)
- Instructor
- Friend
- Relative
- Social Media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter)
- Co-worker
- Other (please specify)

Figure 1. An example of a selective question utilized within the student researchers pilot survey.

7. Do youth think austerity is the best solution to lessening the CNMI deficit?

- Yes
- No

Explain what you chose.

Figure 2. Example of an open-ended question utilized within Cabrera’s pilot survey and was also utilized in the final survey.

Appendix B

Figure 3. Below is the demographic question which Cabrera had included within the final survey.

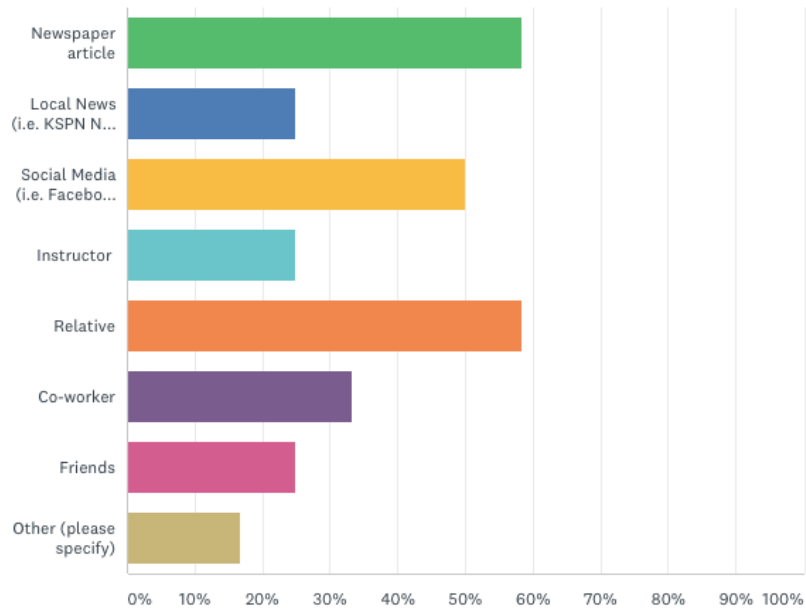
1. What is your age, gender, race, and major?

Age	<input type="text"/>
Gender	<input type="text"/>
Race	<input type="text"/>
Major	<input type="text"/>

KBA: Very interesting topic. You should include a demographic questions to get factors to help in measuring and analyzing the data you collect. You should ask for specific stories of austerity impacts to search for island trends around the issue.

Figure 4. These are two of the suggestions given to Cabrera stating the inclusion of a demographic question to better measure the data.

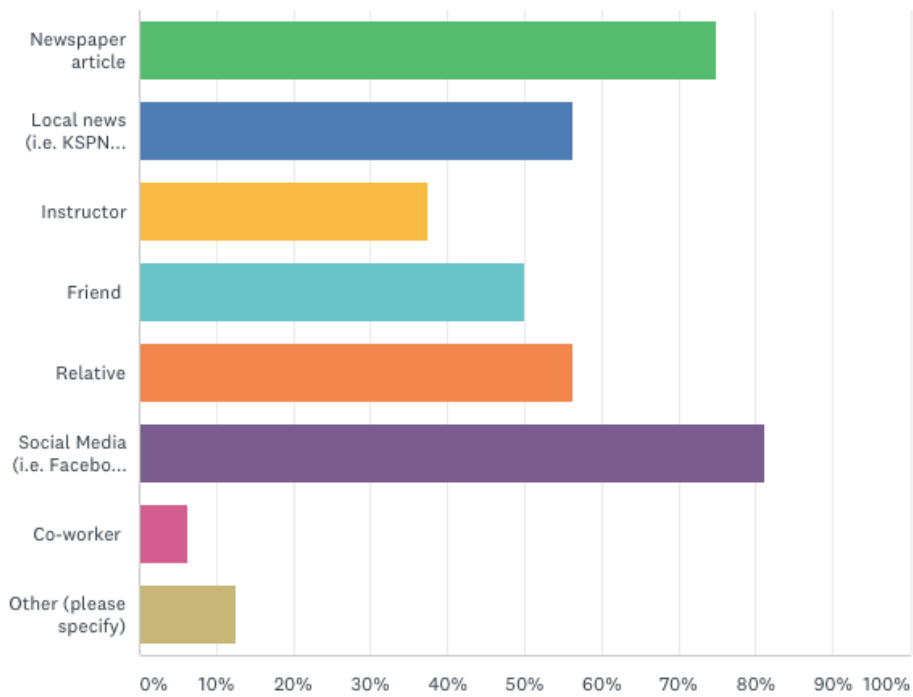
Appendix C



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Newspaper article	58.33%	7
▼ Local News (i.e. KSPN News	25.00%	3
▼ Social Media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter)	50.00%	6
▼ Instructor	25.00%	3
▼ Relative	58.33%	7
▼ Co-worker	33.33%	4
▼ Friends	25.00%	3
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 16.67%	2
Total Respondents: 12		

Figure 1 & 2. Final survey breakdown of how many people found out about austerity through either source.

Appendix D



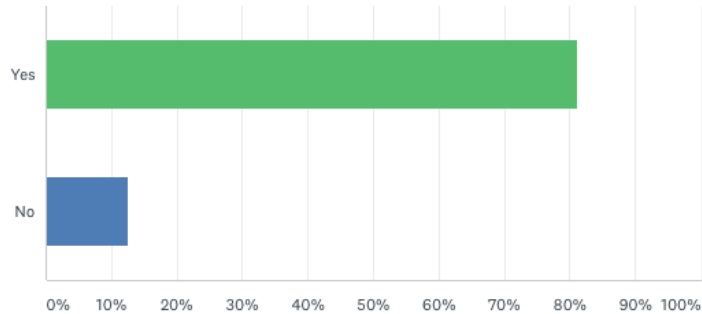
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Newspaper article	75.00% 12
▼ Local news (i.e. KSPN news)	56.25% 9
▼ Instructor	37.50% 6
▼ Friend	50.00% 8
▼ Relative	56.25% 9
▼ Social Media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter)	81.25% 13
▼ Co-worker	6.25% 1
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 12.50% 2
Total Respondents: 16	

Figure 1 & 2. Pilot survey breakdown of how many people found out about austerity through either source.

Appendix E

Would the implementation of austerity cause you to lose interest in working for the CNMI government?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 0

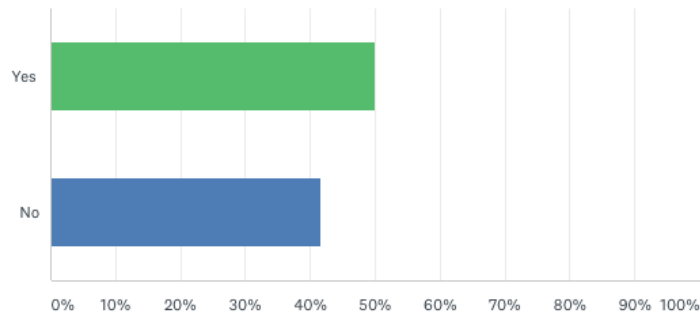


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	81.25%	13
▼ No	12.50%	2
TOTAL		16

Figure 1. Pilot Survey.

Would the implementation of austerity cause you to lose interest in working for the CNMI government?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	50.00%	6
▼ No	41.67%	5
TOTAL		12

Figure 2. Final Survey.

Appendix F

- Generally the CNMI salaries are lower than other places. Austerity makes it worse.**
9/30/2019 10:40 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼

- The money earning here is not enough to support yourself these days**
9/29/2019 7:52 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- I want to be able to support my family**
9/27/2019 6:11 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼

- It is a concern because i want to make sure i get paid**
9/26/2019 3:05 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- I would say yes, because I would think about my pay, maybe I would have less than what I am working for.**
10/22/2019 12:11 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼

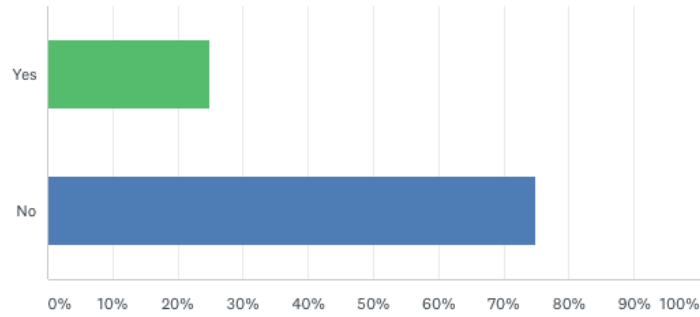
- To be honest, I've never really wanted to work for the government. However, with all the pay cuts and lost hours, it makes me not want to work for the CNMI government even more.**
9/27/2019 11:06 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- I would need a job that doesn't limit my working hours**
9/27/2019 12:13 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼

Figure 1. Responses to the questions in Appendix E.

Appendix G

Do youth think austerity is the best solution to lessening the CNMI deficit?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 0

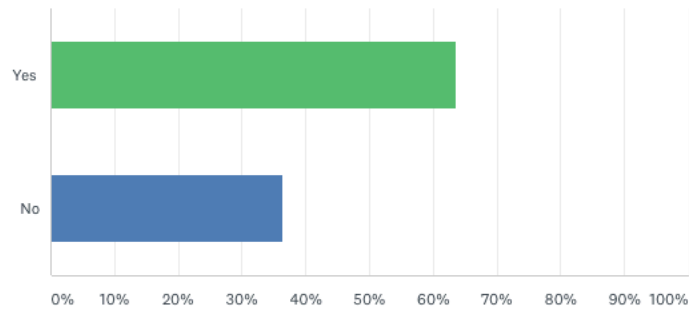


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	25.00%	4
▼ No	75.00%	12
TOTAL		16

Figure 1. Pilot Survey.

Do youth think austerity is the best solution to lessening the CNMI deficit?

Answered: 11 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	63.64%	7
▼ No	36.36%	4
TOTAL		11

Figure 2. Final Survey.

Appendix H

- It discourages people. When tax refunds are held as well and prices increase people become fearful of the future.**
9/30/2019 10:40 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- Money should have been properly handled before giving it out**
9/29/2019 7:52 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- They should figure out what is going on with the funds, and explain it to the people.**
9/27/2019 6:11 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- Band-Aid to a Flooding Dam Problem**
10/6/2019 9:43 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- Band-Aid Solution to bigger problem.**
10/22/2019 11:21 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- I do not really see it as our best option, but I do think it might be our only one.**
9/27/2019 11:06 AM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- Yes in a way, however not for them employees. The is no documentation of where all the money is going to. The employees are suffering because of the CNMI government**
9/27/2019 12:13 AM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- I'm not quite sure how to answer this because I'm not well informed about the topic that deeply.**
9/26/2019 11:31 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- i think the austerity messures they took were not right. They should prioritize some things more than others. Such as education and health care**
9/26/2019 3:05 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼
- Yes and no. Austerity is a solution in the meantime while trying to find out where money is going**
10/11/2019 10:07 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add tags](#) ▼

Figure 1. Responses to the questions in Appendix G.

Reading Notes

Note Taking Sheet: Reading # 1

Course: English Comprehension II **Name:** Prudencio Cabrera **Section:** EN202-03

With many sources to read and evaluate, you need a way to keep track of the material you may use in your research paper. You need to record where you have looked, what you have found, and how to find each piece of information again (this is for your bibliography).

Directions: Fill in the information below, and keep with all of your resources. This will help you when it is time to write both your outline, paper, and annotated bibliography.

1. Author's Name: Erwin Encinares
2. Author's Credentials: Chiang Kai Shek College (Manila, Philippines)
3. Publisher [or title of organization]: Saipan Tribune
4. Heading of Section [title of reading]: Budget calculated 'without austerity'
5. Year Written: 2019
6. Pages: One web page
7. Website URL: <https://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/budget-calculated-without-austerity/>

Main Ideas/Points	Important Quotations	Supporting Details	Relevance to Your Assignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of funds to where they are needed. • Will the function "properly" with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Public School System's proposed budget of \$37.71 million satisfies the constitutional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Fiscal year budget calculated without any austerity cuts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It provides a contradiction to the current issue of austerity.

<p>the proposed budget?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exactly how much revenue is generated if austerity is not included? • Is this proposed amount adequate to support the entire governmental sector? 	<p>mandate of 25% of the CNMI general funds, minus the earmarks.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Everything in this budget is based on normal government operation hours.” • “...the \$5.3 million for the CNMI Medicaid program reimbursement will automatically go to PSS.” • “...identifying over \$233.2 million in revenue, of which over \$148.8 million is available for appropriation.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2020 fiscal budget is set on regular government hours • The appropriation of funds is said to be of no problem. • One particular: PSS will receive the constitutionally mandated 25% of the 2020 FY budget. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This could easily allow for comparisons to be made between proposed budgets. • It will definitely help gaining knowledge about the topic from the source.
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In this article, is it possible that any of the authors might have a bias about the subject matter? No provide examples if needed.

Is the article timely or a bit outdated ? No. It was a recently published newspaper article.

Was it published in a reputable source? Yes.

It is not an academic source. Yes. It is a newspaper article that was not academically peer reviewed.

Other important information: Though this is a non-academic source, it still provides a somewhat detailed look in the budget without the inclusion of austerity.

Note Taking Sheet: Reading # 2

Course: English Comprehension II **NAME:** Prudencio Cabrera **Section:** EN202-03

With many sources to read and evaluate, you need a way to keep track of the material you may use in your research paper. You need to record where you have looked, what you have found, and how to find each piece of information again (this is for your bibliography).

Directions: Fill in the information below, and keep with all of your resources. This will help you when it is time to write both your outline, paper, and annotated bibliography.

1. Author's Name: Emmanuel T. Erediano
2. Author's Credentials: N/A
3. Publisher [or title of organization]: Marianas Variety
4. Heading of Section [title of reading]: Governor implements austerity measures
5. Year Written: 2019
6. Pages: One web page
7. Website URL: <http://www.mvariety.com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/110804-governor-implements-austerity-measure>

Main Ideas/Points	Important Quotations	Supporting Details	Relevance to Your Assignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When exactly was austerity implemented? • What is the general purpose of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “as a result of the devastation of two presidential disaster declarations, the present financial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typhoons were the main cause of the austerity implementation. • Implemented to alleviate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The matter of typhoons as a major factor can be looked into even further.

<p>implementing austerity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who, specifically, is affected by this financial measure? • Will this measure possibly bring the function of the government to adequacy? 	<p>status of the Commonwealth government has been greatly impacted and as such, we must make difficult decisions to operate within our limited resources and ensure that we continue to deliver essential public services.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “we can achieve normalcy for everyone sooner rather than later.” • “actively and proactively monitor the finances of the government which took a major hit over the last couple of months because of the typhoons.” • “...so the government can be in the better financial position in the future and continue to deliver essential public services to the community,” • “The governor advised department and agencies heads that within-grade increases and merit awards authorized by the law are suspended effective immediately.” • “routine promotions are not possible at this time.” 	<p>financial deficit and bring normality to the government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typhoons seems to be a rather major factor as to why austerity is implemented. • Governmental actions were suspended (promotions, hiring, raises) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exactly how much of a downfall is projected before and after austerity is implemented.
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In this article, is it possible that any of the authors might have a bias about the subject matter? No_x__ provide examples if needed.

Is the article timely or a bit outdated ? No.

Was it published in a reputable source? A bit. I know Marianas Variety to be a bit biased.

It is not an academic source. Yes.

Other important information: This is a rather broad and general look into the purpose and reason for the implementation of austerity.

Note Taking Sheet: Reading # 3

Course: English Comprehension II **Name:** Prudencio Cabrera **Section:** EN202-03

With many sources to read and evaluate, you need a way to keep track of the material you may use in your research paper. You need to record where you have looked, what you have found, and how to find each piece of information again (this is for your bibliography).

Directions: Fill in the information below, and keep with all of your resources. This will help you when it is time to write both your outline, paper, and annotated bibliography.

1. Author's Name: Erwin Encinares
2. Author's Credentials: Chiang Kai Shek College (Manila, Philippines)
3. Publisher [or title of organization]: Saipan Tribune
4. Heading of Section [title of reading]: Budget calculated 'without austerity'
5. Year Written: 2019

6. Pages: One web page

7. Website URL: <https://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/budget-calculated-without-austerity/>

Main Ideas/Points	Important Quotations	Supporting Details	Relevance to Your Assignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation of funds to where they are needed. • Will the function “properly” with the proposed budget? • Exactly how much revenue is generated if austerity is not included? • Is this proposed amount adequate to support the entire governmental sector? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Public School System’s proposed budget of \$37.71 million satisfies the constitutional mandate of 25% of the CNMI general funds, minus the earmarks.” • “Everything in this budget is based on normal government operation hours.” • “...the \$5.3 million for the CNMI Medicaid program reimbursement will automatically go to PSS.” • “...identifying over \$233.2 million in revenue, of which over \$148.8 million is available for appropriation.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020 Fiscal year budget calculated without any austerity cuts. • The 2020 fiscal budget is set on regular government hours • The appropriation of funds is said to be of no problem. • One particular: PSS will receive the constitutionally mandated 25% of the 2020 FY budget. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It provides a contradiction to the current issue of austerity. • This could easily allow for comparisons to be made between proposed budgets. • It will definitely help gaining knowledge about the topic from the source.

In this article, is it possible that any of the authors might have a bias about the subject matter? No __x__ provide examples if needed.

Is the article timely or a bit outdated ? No. It was a recently published newspaper article.

Was it published in a reputable source? Yes.

It is not an academic source. Yes. It is a newspaper article that was not academically peer reviewed.

Other important information: Though this is a non-academic source, it still provides a somewhat detailed look in the budget without the inclusion of austerity.

Note Taking Sheet: Reading # 4

Course: English Comprehension II NAME: Prudencio Cabrera Section: EN202-03

With many sources to read and evaluate, you need a way to keep track of the material you may use in your research paper. You need to record where you have looked, what you have found, and how to find each piece of information again (this is for your bibliography).

Directions: Fill in the information below, and keep with all of your resources. This will help you when it is time to write both your outline, paper, and annotated bibliography.

1. Author's Name: Emmanuel T. Erediano
2. Author's Credentials: N/A
3. Publisher [or title of organization]: Marianas Variety
4. Heading of Section [title of reading]: Governor implements austerity measures
5. Year Written: 2019
6. Pages: One web page

7. Website URL: <http://www.mvariety.com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/110804-governor-implements-austerity-measure>

<p>Main Ideas/Points</p>	<p>Important Quotations</p>	<p>Supporting Details</p>	<p>Relevance to Your Assignment</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When exactly was austerity implemented? • What is the general purpose of implementing austerity? • Who, specifically, is affected by this financial measure? • Will this measure possibly bring the function of the government to adequacy? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “as a result of the devastation of two presidential disaster declarations, the present financial status of the Commonwealth government has been greatly impacted and as such, we must make difficult decisions to operate within our limited resources and ensure that we continue to deliver essential public services.” • “we can achieve normalcy for everyone sooner rather than later.” • “actively and proactively monitor the finances of the government which took a major hit over the last couple of months because of the typhoons.” • “...so the government can be in the better financial position in the future and continue to deliver essential public services to the community,” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typhoons were the main cause of the austerity implementation. • Implemented to alleviate financial deficit and bring normality to the government. • Typhoons seems to be a rather major factor as to why austerity is implemented. • Governmental actions were suspended (promotions, hiring, raises) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The matter of typhoons as a major factor can be looked into even further. • Exactly how much of a downfall is projected before and after austerity is implemented.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The governor advised department and agencies heads that within-grade increases and merit awards authorized by the law are suspended effective immediately.” • “routine promotions are not possible at this time.” 		
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In this article, is it possible that any of the authors might have a bias about the subject matter? No_x__ provide examples if needed.

Is the article timely or a bit outdated ? No.

Was it published in a reputable source? A bit. I know Marianas Variety to be a bit biased.

It is not an academic source. Yes.

Other important information: This is a rather broad and general look into the purpose and reason for the implementation of austerity.

Note Taking Sheet: Reading # 5

Course: English Comprehension II Name: Prudencio Cabrera Section: EN202-03

With many sources to read and evaluate, you need a way to keep track of the material you may use in your research paper. You need to record where you have looked, what you have found, and how to find each piece of information again (this is for your bibliography).

Directions: Fill in the information below, and keep with all of your resources. This will help you when it is time to write both your outline, paper, and annotated bibliography.

1. Author's Name: Sasha Abramsky
2. Author's Credentials: Balliol College, Oxford
3. Publisher [or title of organization]: N/A
4. Heading of Section [title of reading]: The Price of Austerity in England
5. Year Written: 2019
6. Pages: One web page
7. Website URL: <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=135313310&site=ehost-live>

Main Ideas/Points	Important Quotations	Supporting Details	Relevance to Your Assignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of austerity in Great Britain • Further discusses the impact in Northhamptonshire • Allocation of funds to where they are needed. • Illustrate the impact through the life of a British native. • Will the govermemnt function “properly” with the proposed budget? • Exactly how much revenue is generated if austerity is not included? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “As a social worker in a cash-strapped county, Kev saw his pay essentially frozen for several years” • “During that time, however, county employees received only 5.5 percent in wage increases, translating into a huge decline in living standards for workers who weren't paid much to begin with” • “constitutionally delineated federal system that delegates powerful legislative, tax-raising, and regulatory powers to local authorities.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transportation is heavily depended on, however it is underfunded due to austerity • The matter has lessened labor working standards • Counties were underfunded as revenue was being allocated elsewhere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be used to link austerity in Saipan and the UK • It provides a contradiction to the current issue of austerity. • This could easily allow for comparisons to be made between proposed budgets.

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In this article, is it possible that any of the authors might have a bias about the subject matter? No provide examples if needed.

Is the article timely or a bit outdated ? No. It was a recently published article.

Was it published in a reputable source? Yes.

It is not an academic source. Yes. It is a newspaper article that peer reviewed.

Other important information: Though this is a academic source, it still provides a somewhat detailed look in the very impact of austerity within Great Britain.

Note Taking Sheet: Reading # 6

Course: English Comprehension II NAME: Prudencio Cabrera Section: EN202-03

With many sources to read and evaluate, you need a way to keep track of the material you may use in your research paper. You need to record where you have looked, what you have found, and how to find each piece of information again (this is for your bibliography).

Directions: Fill in the information below, and keep with all of your resources. This will help you when it is time to write both your outline, paper, and annotated bibliography.

1. Author's Name: Lori Lyn C. Lirio
2. Author's Credentials: N/A
3. Publisher [or title of organization]: Marianas Variety
4. Heading of Section [title of reading]: CHCC implements austerity measures
5. Year Written: 2019
6. Pages: One web page
7. Website URL: <http://www.mvariety.com/cnmi/cnmi-news/local/110804-governor-implements-austerity-measure>

Main Ideas/Points	Important Quotations	Supporting Details	Relevance to Your Assignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did CHCC follow the same implementations as the government? • Exactly, how much is CHCC receiving? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “we are not able to simply scale back hours or services” • “the measures within the CHC division consist of the reduction of off-island traveling for training services as well as lessening the number of non-essential projects or investments.” • “Uncompensated care costs”, “lack of insurance availability for individuals”, and “[not enough] Medicaid funding” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient amount of funds were being allocated to the health care system. • Typhoons were the main cause of the austerity implementation • Implemented to alleviate financial deficit and bring normality to the government. • Typhoons seems to be a rather major factor as to why austerity is implemented. • Governmental actions were suspended (promotions, hiring, raises) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The matter of typhoons as a major factor can be looked into even further. • Exactly how much of a downfall is projected before and after austerity is implemented .

In this article, is it possible that any of the authors might have a bias about the subject matter? No x provide examples if needed.

Is the article timely or a bit outdated ? No.

Was it published in a reputable source? A bit. I know Marianas Variety to be a bit biased.

It is not an academic source. Yes.

Other important information: This is a rather detailed look into how austerity has branched into the community.

Note Taking Sheet: Reading # 7

Course: English Comprehension II Name: Prudencio Cabrera Section: EN202-03

With many sources to read and evaluate, you need a way to keep track of the material you may use in your research paper. You need to record where you have looked, what you have found, and how to find each piece of information again (this is for your bibliography).

Directions: Fill in the information below, and keep with all of your resources. This will help you when it is time to write both your outline, paper, and annotated bibliography.

1. Author's Name: Kerasidou, A., & Kingori, P
2. Author's Credentials: N/A
3. Publisher [or title of organization]: N/A

4. **Heading of Section [title of reading]:** Austerity measures and the transforming role of A&E professionals in a weakening welfare system.

5. **Year Written:** 2019

6. **Pages:** One web page

7. **Website URL:** <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0212314>.

Main Ideas/Points	Important Quotations	Supporting Details	Relevance to Your Assignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How exactly does austerity reform health workers? • Where is the line drawn when austerity begin to impact lives? • What reforms are being made? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “altered the specific section of health departments known as “A&E” or “Accidents & Emergencies” • “alteration of the “Accidents & Emergencies” departments due to the high demand for medical services and resources” • “moral distress”, “burnout” as well as “feelings of being devalued” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spoke of the mental and emotional impact of austerity • Delved further into the rather personal impact of austerity. • “Face(s) of austerity” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows the student researcher to look into the personal side of austerity • Gave a somewhat “face” to the matter. • Allows the student researcher to establish sympathy for those affected by the financial step.

In this article, is it possible that any of the authors might have a bias about the subject matter? No__x_ provide examples if needed.

Is the article timely or a bit outdated ? No. It was a recently published article and study.

Was it published in a reputable source? Yes.

It is not an academic source. No, this article is also a study.

Other important information: The reputable source provides a detailed look into the “personal” impact of austerity while also establishing sympathy for such individuals.

Austerity in the CNMI: A Study of the CNMI Government's

Efforts to Recover from Deficit

Prudencio Cabrera

Northern Marianas College

19 September 2019

EN202-03 English Composition II

Dr. Kimberly Bunts-Anderson

Proposal Essay/Essay #2

Austerity in the CNMI: A Study of the CNMI Government's Efforts to Recover from Deficit

Austerity: what the government gains, you lose. The current austerity situation has brought some confusion to the people of the CNMI. The very intricacies of its implementation continue to raise questions regarding its effectiveness on lessening the CNMI's debt. Despite having been in effect for some time, austerity has caused a domino effect within the island community; impacting the business community, disrupting education services, and cutting the pay of government employees. However, despite such an immense impact, several details surrounding this current matter remain unknown to the public. Concerns about the actual amount of money to be saved, projected budget restorations, and the appropriation of such funds endure to cross-examine the true purpose of these austerity measures. Now, the question remains: will this current implementation deem successful? Further investigation on this matter will be conducted by the student researcher to thoroughly construct a definitive answer pertaining to this question. Such an investigation will include the extensive research found through database websites such as EBSCO, interviews with public officials and experts, and newspaper articles.

To highly scrutinize the matter of austerity, formulating a question in which to develop a thorough, comprehensible, and concise research paper on would be appropriate. The primary research question, which the student researcher will utilize to compose a research paper, majorly encompasses the effectiveness of austerity. The question: As the CNMI is in a current financial crisis, will the implementation of austerity be a successful solution? From there, specified information can be appropriated from the collected literature to efficiently assemble the sections of a possible, definitive answer. However, secondary questions can be inquired to also investigate the even further details of austerity. Much of these questions will mainly pertaining to the specifics of austerity. Do past implementations of austerity provide any information/solutions which can be utilized today? Are there

differences of specific austerity measures within each government agency/office? Such questions help to uncover past implementations as a way of distinguishing specific governmental decisions as well as distinguishing austerity impacts on operations. Moreover, questions applying to the monetary side of austerity help in the clearly illustrating the effectiveness of the present implementation. Questions such as: What amount of money is actually being saved? Where is the exact location of this money? Also, who is to be trusted in maintaining these finances? Such questions aid the student researcher in devising a probable answer to the primary research question.

The literature collected on this topic consists of newspaper articles, scholarly journals and articles, and a major survey. Both the scholar book and journal were obtained from EBSCO; a diverse database providing tons of non-academic and academic sources for researching writing. The academic journal, titled “Paradox of Austerity: Multi-Country Evidence”, is a sufficient source which completely aids the student researcher. The provision of direction definitions of austerity as well as analytical data of specific countries allow for the construction of comparisons distinctly between the CNMI and other countries within Europe. Along to complement this, a scholarly article—titled “Austerity Measures and the Transforming Role of A&E Professionals in a Weakening Welfare System”—investigates the austerity measures within the country of England. However, it ultimately concentrates on the impact of such measures on the welfare system; focusing on certain aspects such as fund increase, social care, and welfare spending. Apace with these academic sources, the addition of two local newspaper article introduce the current implementation of austerity within the CNMI. However, each centralizes on separate issues. One particularly focused on the upcoming fiscal year budget; providing an analysis on the budget if austerity measures were not included. The other newspaper article primarily encompassed the various aspects of the island community affected by austerity measures. A primary focus was the Northern

Marianas College; introducing several notions as to how such measures may impact classes and programs. All in all, such literature will aid the researcher in providing sufficient and detailed data correlating to the issue of austerity.

Primary sources, data which you collect yourself, can provide original and efficient information from those directly affected by austerity. Now, the detailed process and methods of which to acquire information from such sources remains to be deliberated. First, a survey is to be given to approximately 60 government employees deriving from different government offices and agencies. As these individuals experience the first-hand impacts of austerity measures, questions focusing mainly on their opinions are to be inquired. Questions such as — “Do you think there are other measures aside from austerity that could have been taken? If so, what are they?”— would be appropriate in obtaining such opinions. The first and foremost question, “Are you an individual directly affected by austerity?”, would ensure a desired population of those solely impacted by such measures. Second, emailed letters and interviews are to be sent and conducted with local experts and officials knowledgeable on the matter. Fortunately, with contact information of both Representative Ed Propst and Representative Tina Sablan on hand, collective insight from public officials can aid such research in clarifying the governmental goal of austerity. Third and last, another survey targeting Northern Marianas College students would be sufficient in gaining communal insight on this current matter. This survey will primarily focus on roughly 35 students inquiring their opinions and thoughts on austerity. To acquire equal insight, students of all ethnicities and backgrounds will be given the survey. Such surveys and interviews will allow for original insight and opinions of individuals to directly address the impact austerity has on the quality of life.

Proposed Literature Schedule: October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 -first batch of surveys to be given to gov. employees. (30 surveys)	2 -student survey to be handed out (35 surveys)	3 -follow-up on survey.	4	5
6	7	8 -survey collection	9 -survey collection	10	11	12
13	14	15 -second batch of surveys (30 surveys)	16	17 -anti. interview with Rep. Ed Propst	18	19
20	21	22 -anti. interview with budget analysts	23	24 -anti. Interview with Rep. Tina Sablan	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Proposed Writing Schedule: October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 -If surveys are done, begin organization
6 -Start cover page	7 -Organization of surveys	8	9	10 -follow-up on survey	11 - literature analysis	12 -Topic sentence Blueprint
13	14 -Intro and Conclusion Blueprint	15	16	17	18 -2nd batch survey follow-up	19
20	21 -Drafting	22 -Drafting	23 -Drafting	24 -Drafting	25 -Drafting	26
27	28	29	30	31		

The current issue of austerity within the CNMI is ultimately an intriguing topic which affects the various aspects of our island community. Therefore, gathered analysis can assist in further evaluating the effectiveness of such an implementation. Now, the question remains: where to start? With a primary question in hand, the student researcher aims to focus much of their research on whether this current implementation will be successful. Delving into the secondary aspects of austerity such as the monetary and past measures will provide specified data to complement primary analysis. To gain this information, the literature must be appropriate. The collection of numerous sources—local newspaper articles, academic volumes, and local surveys—provides both national and local information which allow for comparisons and contradictions to be made on the premise of successfulness. Apace with that, the conduction of surveys on both college students and government will acquire direct and original insight or opinions on austerity. Such insight ties in with the very impact this implementation on the island community. Aside from this, each schedule is anticipated as it is subject to change with many the upcoming assignment and assessments which the student researcher must complete. However, if time permits, the schedule will follow as shown. Every aspect of austerity has yet to be fully uncovered; and with the specific literature gathered as well as primary data with a schedule to follow, such research can be completed in due time.