Module 1 Discussion Post

For this module, read **Chapter 2 (pp. 30–59)** and **Chapter 3 (pp. 90–108)**, and watch the *Module 1 Budgeting* lecture video.

Then **choose three of the seven questions** below and write a discussion post of **300–500 words total**. You do not need to answer all seven. Pick the three you find most interesting. Answer in your own words. A good post shows you understand the concept well enough to explain it to someone who has not watched the lecture, and uses an example wherever you can from your own experience or an organization you know.

Questions

1. **Flexible budgets and uncertainty.** What is a flexible budget, and how does it help an organization plan when it does not know what its level of activity or demand will be? Describe a situation where preparing one would change what a manager decides to do.
2. **The four stages of the budgeting process.** Name the four stages. For each one, say who is typically involved, which officials, offices, or bodies lead it, and which others participate. At which stage does the public have the most direct say, and why?
3. **Budgets and strategic planning.** How does a budget connect to an organization's mission, strategic plan, and long-range plan? Why is the budget described as the most near-term of these?
4. **Functional vs. responsibility center budgets.** What is the difference between a functional budget and a responsibility center budget? What question can each one answer that the other cannot?
5. **Operating vs. capital budget.** What distinguishes a capital budget from an operating budget? Why do capital budgets usually extend beyond a single year, and why are they often financed differently?
6. **Special purpose budgets.** What is a special purpose budget, and how does it differ from a master budget? Describe a circumstance in an organization you know where one would be needed.
7. **Mill rate and property tax.** What is a mill rate, and how is it used to calculate a property tax bill? Work through the calculation using your own numbers for assessed value, exemption, and rate, and show your steps.

Also include

Close your post by noting, in a sentence or two, which part of the reading or lecture you found most difficult, or what question you still have.

Responding to classmates

After posting, respond to **at least one classmate's post** with a thoughtful reply that adds to the discussion. Where you can, reply to someone who answered a question you did not choose.

A note on AI

These questions check your own understanding of the assigned reading and lecture. Do **not** use AI tools to generate your post. If a concept is not clear after the reading and the video, say so in your closing note and ask about it.