

## Presidential Candidates Assignment

Since many of you are or will soon be 18 years old, this fall will be your first opportunity to exercise your right to vote. Making that even more exciting is the fact that it is a Presidential election year. In an effort to help you become more informed about the candidates and the issues, and thus, increase the likelihood of you casting a vote for the candidate you feel will do the best job, we are going to do this last assignment of the year to become informed voters.

This assignment will be a major grade assignment worth 100 points. We will spend class time this week working on the assignment. The more you do in class, the less you will need to do at home. All students must complete the assignment. However, some students will be able to choose whether or not it will be for a grade. See below...

- If a student has an 80% semester average or above, they may choose to not have the assignment graded. They still must do the assignment, and it must be quality work. It will be returned to the student to be improved if it is not considered of quality. If the student does not improve the work, it will be graded and averaged in with the students other grades. If the assignment is acceptable, and they are happy with their current grade and do not want to risk lowering that grade, they may request that the assignment not be graded. The decision must be made when the assignment is turned in.
- Students who have below an 80% for the semester will be required to turn in the assignment for a major grade. This is an excellent opportunity to raise your semester average, especially if you have lower test scores.

For this assignment you will be comparing the two main presidential candidates' positions on select issues. You will compare incumbent Democratic President Barack Obama, and the presumptive Republican nominee Mitt Romney. For each issue, you must do the following...

1. Explain what each candidate's plan is for the issue. Use specifics, and identify how they would like to pay for it, if applicable.
2. After comparing the candidates on that issue, explain which plan you agree with most, and why.
3. After you have completed your comparisons, you must write a paragraph or two about which candidate you feel would make the best president the next four years. Be sure to explain why you feel that way.

I want students to research a wide range of issues. Therefore, each student will be given a select group of issues from which to choose. For your assigned group, you must select 2 foreign policy issues, and 2 domestic policy issues. I will allow you to select whatever issue you like for your 5<sup>th</sup> issue. If it is not on the list below, check with me first to make sure it is acceptable.

### **Foreign Policy**

#### Group A

Al Qaeda/Terrorism  
Iran  
Military Policy (spending, deployment, veterans, etc.)

#### Group B

The Middle East  
North Korea  
China

#### Group C

Israel  
Russia  
Nuclear Weapons

### **Domestic Policy**

#### Group A

Affordable Care Act  
Environment  
Job Creation  
Taxes  
Coal

#### Group B

Abortion  
Immigration  
Gay Rights/Same Sex Marriage  
Oil  
Social Security

#### Group C

Green Energy  
National Debt  
Bank/Wall Street regulation  
Foreign Trade  
Education

## Where to Look

Two good places to start are the candidates' websites. However, Romney's tends to be more thorough. This may be due to him not having to actually implement his ideas now, as he is not the president. Obama did much the same thing when he was campaigning in 2008. Also, Obama's record can be an indication of what his plans are for certain issues, so looking up what he has done as president might be more informative than his website.

Some of the reputable news websites might also be of value. However, some of them have a tendency to be more liberal (MSNBC) or more conservative (Fox News). Therefore, it is always wise to find multiple sources to verify the information. Beware of some websites that appear to be neutral. You may find a site that looks very credible, and is comparing the candidates on every issue. That site might seem like a jackpot of information and make your job very easy. However, many of them are not objective at all, and are very biased towards one candidate. Sometimes it is very obvious. Other times, not so much. Again, verify the information through other sources before you accept it as true.

## Format

1. You should put information you find into your own words.
  2. Below each issue for each candidate, list the source of the information (title of the source, i.e. candidate's website, or CNN.com.)
  3. Each student must start a source page on your iPad. On this page, you will copy the link of any information you use. This page will be emailed to me so I can easily click on the link to take me to the site if necessary. It should follow the format below. Your final presentation can be in KEYNOTE or i Movie
- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Candidate     | Barack Obama  |
| 2. Issue         | Al Qaeda  |
| 3. Title of Page | Obama's website   |
| 4. Link          | <a href="http://www.barackobama.com/record/national-security?source=primary-nav">http://www.barackobama.com/record/national-security?source=primary-nav</a> |

## OR option #2

Assignment Two Political spot advertisement before the elections. Done with a partner using iMovie on your

iPad and present in class Your spot ad should be at least :90seconds in length. Can support any party any candidate and must be about a current Campaign Issue

You will be graded on your in class presentation as well as well as your content see rubric for construction of your project