

Student Assignment Sheet

Standard USG-4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of civil rights and civil liberties, the role of American citizens in the American political system, and distinctive expressions of American political culture.

USG-4.4 Analyze the process through which citizens monitor and influence public policy, including political parties, interest groups, the media, lobbying, donations, issue advocacy, and candidate support.

Hot Seat Debate:

Republican Candidates for United States President Project, 2011:

You and at least one other member of your class have been assigned a potential presidential candidate for the 2011 elections. This is a 3 part project that will require you to research your candidate, create a campaign video for your candidate, and participate in a debate in which you defend and explain the opinions of your candidate.

Part I

You should create a Resume for your political candidate – I expect this to look like a real resume!

You should attach to your resume a summary of your candidate's beliefs and opinions about the following issues:

1. Economy (Job creation, debt, etc.)
2. Health Care
3. Immigration

You should also create a chart that compares and contrasts the opinions on the above issues to those of our current President, Barack Obama

Please include a works cited list for this part of the project – you should have a minimum of 3 sources!

All of this information should be typed & printed!

Part 2

You should create a short 1-2 minute video endorsing your candidate. You can use MovieMaker, Photostory, animoto.com, xtranormal.com, or any other website or program that allows you to create videos. You will be graded on creativity and accuracy of facts/content.

Part 3

Participate in an in-class Hot Seat Debate in which you defend and explain the positions of your candidate. I will have more information about the debate closer to the time we will debate, but every member of your group should be prepared to field questions from me and from other members of the class about your candidate.

You will also want to research information about the other candidates, so that you can question them. Make sure you know your candidates background and political beliefs on a wide variety of subjects and can defend those positions. The group who wins the Hot Seat Debate will earn a current events pass.

Resources:

www.c-span.org

www.congress.org

Teacher Instructions:

Materials Needed:

- Computers with Internet Access
- Senteo Clickers and Smartboard Access (optional)

Procedure:

1. Students will be assigned groups of 2-3 and also assigned a current Republican Candidate for President
2. Students will work in the Library Computer Lab researching their Candidate (3 class periods) and also work creating the resumes and commercials for their candidates. Students unable to work on a computer will be assigned a current event from the newspaper for that day.
3. On the due date, the class will first watch the commercials and then participate in the Hot Seat Debate
4. Hot Seat Debate Instructions:
 - a. There should be 2 chairs set up in the front of the classroom
 - b. The teacher will draw randomly for 2 candidates
 - c. Each candidate group should send a representative to answer questions from the other groups
 - d. Students from all the other groups should ask questions of these two “candidates”
 - e. After about 5-10 minutes of debate, students will use Senteo Clickers to vote on which candidate they believe did the best job during the debate.
 - f. The winning candidate will stay in the “hot seat” while the other candidate returns to his group.
 - g. The teacher draws another candidate’s name to participate in the “hot seat”
 - h. This process continues through all candidates, once candidates have been voted out they have 1 more chance to return to the “hot seat”
 - i. The candidate who stays in the seat the most number of times will be declared the winner and the group will receive the current events pass.