**Who should govern? Unit 2&3 Project**

For this project you will select a current member of congress to center your research on. Go to the website govtrac.us and click on the members of congress link.

Project requirements

**Page 1- Cover page**- congressperson, political party, district or state, your name, period

**Page 2- Bio Sheet** (use votesmart.org)

* Picture,
* name,
* district or state they represent,
* political party,
* age
* marital status
* race
* religion
* education
* past political positions,
* other non-political jobs,
* committee assignments (do not list sub-committees),
* Who are some of their key endorsements
* two facts about his/her district.
* What % of the votes did they get in the last election?

**Page 3- We’ve got Issues**

 Part 1: Go to their official government webpage (house.gov or senate.gov)

 Based on their webpage what seems to be their top priorities? What are 2 issues they seem to care about and what they would like to see the government?

 Part 2: Go to votesmart.org and click on the issues position tab for your congressmen. How would they vote on the following issues? How strongly? (no, NO!, yes, YES!, don’t care) And do you personally agree with them? (agree/disagree)

* Abortion Issues: Do you consider yourself pro-choice or pro-life?
* Budget, Spending, and Tax Issues: Do you support the elimination of the federal estate tax?
* Spending, and Tax Issues: Do you support using government funds in an effort to stimulate and improve the economy?
* Business and Employment Issues: Do you support privatizing elements of Social Security?
* Crime Issues: Do you support capital punishment for certain crimes?
* Education Issues: Do you support federal education standards and testing requirements for K-12 students?
* Environment and Energy Issues: Do you support enacting environmental regulations aimed at reducing the effects of climate change?
* Issues: Do you support restrictions on the purchase and possession of guns?
* Health Issues: Do you support a publicly-administered health insurance option?
* Immigration Issues: Do you support a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants?
* Foreign Policy Issues: Do you support United States military action in Afghanistan?
* Should marriage only be between one man and one woman?

**Page 4- Compass and voter**

Part 1: Where on the political compass would you place them? (include where you are personally)

Part 2: Create a portrait with thought bubbles of a voter who would find your congressmen appealing. (The more descriptive the better.)

**Page 5- Follow the Money**

Use either opensecrets.org or votesmart.org for the following info.

* How much money was raised in the most recent campaign cycle?
* List the top 5 contributors and who they are e.g. what do they make.
* How might the contributions influence their position on a particular issue?
* Create a fundraiser the candidate would use to raise money. (extra credit for most money raised)

**Page 6- Watch me now**

Create an ad that would encourage voters to vote for your congressmen. Storyboard and/or video (extra credit for video).

**Page 7- There ought to be a law…**

Part 1: How did they vote on HR2775?

Part 2: Introduce a bill. Create a bill that your congressmen would support. “A bill to provide….”

Part 3: Introduce a bill that would make your one or more of contributors happy “A bill to provide..”

What would the president do with your bills?

**Page 8- Evaluation**

Short essay addressing the following topics: What is overall impression of the congressman/woman? What is the biggest threat to them getting re-elected? Is it from the left or the right? Do they seem more concerned with keeping their job or doing what is best for the country.

**Campaign Poster (Create a campaign poster for your candidate to hang up in class)**

**Presentation (1-2 minutes)**

Be prepared to present your candidate to the class. Assume the role of your congressmen/congresswoman in a brief question/answer session based on material from the project. Also be prepared to show your ad in class if you are using the video model.