

POLSC 10: US Government and Politics
Assignment: CONGRESS & THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Due Date: At the beginning of class **on the day listed in the syllabus**. Late assignments can receive only 80% of total points. No assignments will be accepted more than 7 days after the original due date. This assignment counts as part of your Class Participation & Homework portion of your grade.

Directions/Guidelines: Go to <http://www.house.gov/> and <http://www.senate.gov/> to collect the following information about your representatives in Congress. Go to <http://senate.ca.gov/> & <http://assembly.ca.gov/> to collect the following information about your representatives in the California State Legislature.

1. Which congressional district are you in? Who represents you in the House of Representatives? What is his/her political party affiliation? Go to your representative's website and look for a Link or a Tab labeled something like "Policy Issues" or "Key Issues." Name two issues that your representative believes are especially important and what they say they are doing about those issues.

2. Who are your two U.S. Senators? What are their political party affiliations?

3. Read the biography of each senator. List two committees on which senator serves. For each committee list two areas of jurisdiction.

4. Who is the Speaker of the House? What is the Speaker's role? (the textbook may be helpful)

5. Who is the majority and minority leader in the House and Senate? What are their roles? (this will be 4 people total; the textbook may be helpful)

6. List 4 differences between the House and the Senate and explain why those differences matter in how the two bodies represent the public (the textbook should be helpful but this question should require some thought and reflection on your part.)

7. What powers does Congress have over the President?

8. What powers does Congress have over the courts?

9. Go to www.opensecrets.org and look up Representative Jared Huffman from Ca. List the Top 5 Contributors to his Campaign Committee for 2019-2020.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

Now list the Top 5 Industries in 2019-2020 to his Campaign Committee.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

10. Spend some time looking at www.opensecrets.org. Look-up a few other elected officials. In what way do you think this website is helpful? Did you find any information that surprised you?

California State Legislature Questions

11. Who represents you in the California State Assembly? What is his/her political party affiliation? Name two issues that your assembly member believes are especially important and what they say they are doing about those issues.

What types of services does the Senator's website help link people up with?

12. Who represents you in the California State Senate? What is his/her political party affiliation? Name two issues that your senator believes are especially important and what they say they are doing about those issues.

Bonus: Find a cartoon that shows Congress in a positive light and attach it here with an explanation of the cartoon's meaning and list where you found it. If this is difficult, think about why that might be.