

## **Political Impact Project**

**Submitted by LeeAnn Browett, Amity High School**

**Activity Description:** See directions for either Option A: Volunteer on a Political Campaign or Option B: Attend Local Government Meetings listed below:

**Compelling Questions:** *Are all politics truly local?  
What does it mean to be an American citizen?*

**Background:** As a class we have explored the political spectrum, the fundamental differences between conservatives and liberals, and important campaign issues. Now it is time for you to take action and become an involved Connecticut resident and American citizen! You will choose to directly involve yourself in the American political process by selecting one of the political impact project options below:

### **Option A. Volunteer to assist a political campaign**

or

### **Option B. Attend local government meetings**

Follow the directions for the specific option assignment you chose that follows:

#### **Option A: Volunteer on a Political Campaign**

1. Choose a candidate who is running for political office this November. Volunteer your help for 5 hours. (50 points)
2. Complete the information outline for the candidate and answer the short answer essay questions below. (50 points)

#### **Candidate Information Outline**

**Directions:** Complete the outline using the format and numbers provided. The answers should be a combination of short phrases and/or complete sentences. Parts IV and V should be completed in paragraphs. Be accurate and thorough.

## I. The Candidate

### A. Biography

1. age
2. birth place
3. family background (marriage, children)
4. veteran
5. education

### B. Political Background

1. Why did the candidate decide to enter politics?
2. What is the candidate's political label?
3. What elected offices have the candidate held?

## II. The District

### A. Population and Geography

1. Towns/area of district (map)
2. Total population of district
3. What is the voting record of the district?

## III. Campaign Issues

- A. What are the major issues of the campaign?
- B. What are the stands on these issues?
- C. Does the candidate have a strong conviction on a particular issue?
- D. Is the candidate well-informed on public issues?

## IV. Campaign Techniques and Strategies (answer in paragraph form)

- A. What fundraising techniques are used?
- B. Public Debates/Meetings? If so where? When?
- C. What techniques and strategies were used to get the candidate's message out (i.e. palm cards, media outlets, door-to-door campaigning, focus on specific issues, etc.)
- D. How effective are these strategies in light of his/her opponent's strategies?
- E. Will the candidate be successful on Election Day? Why?

## V. Your Experience (answer in paragraph form)

- A. Describe your experience working the campaign. Based on your experience, what is your overall impression of politics? Did your concept of politics change based on your campaign work? Support your generalizations and conclusions.

## Option B: Attend Local Government Meetings

1. Review schedules for local town meetings. Select and attend **two** local town meetings. (50 points)

2. Answer the following outline regarding **one** of the local town meetings you attended. (50 points)

Town Meeting Outline

Directions: Complete the outline using the format and numbers provided. The answers to Section I should be a combination of short phrases and/or complete sentences. Sections II, III, and IV should be completed in paragraphs. Be accurate and thorough.

I. Board or Commission

- A. Name of Board/Commission
- B. What is the role of the board/commission in the community?
- C. What powers does the board/commission have?
- D. How are board/commission members selected?
- E. What is the term of a board or commission member?

II. Board/Commission Meeting

- A. What issue(s) were discussed during the town meeting?
- B. What specific facts did you learn about the issue(s) discussed?
- C. Was a decision made about the issue(s)? If not, what future actions will the board or commission take regarding the issue(s)?

III. Connection to local, state, national issues

- A. How does the issue(s) connect with other local, state, or national issues? Be specific and research if necessary.

IV. Policy Recommendation

- A. Given what you learned at the town meeting and additional research you have completed, what policy recommendation would you give to the board/commission? Justify your recommendation with research and solid analysis.

**Age Level:** High School (Grades 11 or 12)

**Red, White & Blue Schools Rubric Connections:**

- Electoral process taught in social studies classes uses innovative approaches and involves student-centered hands on learning.
- Electoral process is taught through active engagement and participation with school and community partners.
- Electoral process is taught by examining the process, candidate's views on issues, and their impact on daily lives.

- Electoral process is taught by utilizing various forms of media and outreach to communicate projects and learning.
- Students personal understanding of and participation in the electoral process grew.