

**Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics
Summer PEP (Presidential Election Project)**

Directions: Answer sections A. through G. thoroughly, citing sources in each section. Submit your responses to <http://www.turnitin.com/> by each due date, and bring a copy of all materials to class on the 1st day of school. Late work is subject to a ten percent point deduction.

Turnitin for Ludlowe students: ID 5143403, enrollment password: falcons
Turnitin for Warde students: ID 5143640, enrollment password: mustangs

Due Date	Point Value	Step	Recommended Sources
6/29	3	A. Select three issues that are most important to you in the 2012 national elections. Express your opinion on each and explain why you have identified the issues as significant in your choice for our nation's chief executive. Why and how do you think the president can impact these issues?	http://2012.presidential-candidates.org/ http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2012/
7/13	27	<p>B. 1. Identify the positions on your three issues held by two leading Democratic candidates for federal office. Include President Obama and a Connecticut candidate for Congress. Reference related legislation or policy the candidates have supported related to these issues. List interest groups, issues advocacy groups (501 or 527 committees), or PACs connected to these issues which have endorsed or funded your candidates.</p> <p>2. Identify the positions on your three issues held by two leading Republican candidates for federal office. Include Mitt Romney and a Connecticut candidate for Congress. Reference related legislation or policy the candidates have supported related to these issues. List interest groups, issues advocacy groups (501 or 527 committees), or PACs connected to these issues which have endorsed or funded your candidates.</p>	<p>For B1 and B2: http://www.politics1.com/ (see "Directory" at top) http://votesmart.org/ http://www.ontheissues.org/default.htm http://www.c-span.org/Campaign2012/ www.opensecrets.com http://www.congress.org/congressorg/home/ http://www.barackobama.com/splash/stand-with-the-president http://www.mittromney.com/s/mitt-ann-2012 http://www.commoncause.org/site/pp.asp?c=dkLNK1MQIwG&b=4741359 http://www.campaignfreedom.org/ CT candidates' and interest groups' websites</p>

		<p>3. Which presidential and congressional candidates' views are most closely aligned with your own? Do you anticipate that this will be the candidate you support? Why or why not? Consider the salience of your issues and your candidate's ability to effect change. Which candidate (for President or for Congress) will have the most power to impact these issues?</p>	<p>For B3: http://www.politics1.com/ http://selectsmart.com/president/ http://2012election.procon.org/view_source-summary-chart.php http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html (US Constitution to see expressed/enumerated powers for each institution)</p>
7/20	10	<p>C. Identify the Democratic and the Republican parties' platforms or stances on these issues. How closely aligned are your 4 candidates' stances with their parties' stances? Why might a candidate stray from official party line stances? Is it important to you that your candidate demonstrate party loyalty?</p>	<p>http://www.democrats.org/ http://www.gop.com/getconnected/getconnected.htm</p>
7/27	10	<p>D. Research your 4 candidates' campaign finance. Who are the top three contributors to your candidates' campaigns? Has your candidate benefitted from outside issue advocacy groups as a result of the Citizens United decision? Why have particular contributors selected your candidate? Provide specific data as you interpret how the candidates' campaign donations could impact their platforms and why their donors selected them to support. Does campaign funding impact your opinion of your candidates?</p>	<p>http://www.fec.gov/ www.opensecrets.com http://www.factcheck.org/ http://votesmart.org/ http://www.citizen.org/Page.aspx?pid=183 http://www.whitehouseforsale.org/ http://www.commoncause.org/site/pp.asp?c=dkLNK1MQIwG&b=4741359 http://www.campaignfreedom.org/</p>
8/3	20	<p>E. Track your 4 candidates' campaigns throughout the summer. Consider the following as you write an analysis of each candidate's campaign strategies, one page per candidate. How are your candidates doing in the polls? What impacts their standing? Where did they make appearances? Why did they pick each location? Who makes headlines and for what reason? How does the candidate use media? How do your candidates try to appeal to</p>	<p>daily newspapers – especially “The Caucus” column in http://www.nytimes.com/</p> <p>candidates' websites such as http://www.barackobama.com/splash/stand-with-the-president? and http://www.mittromney.com/s/mitt-ann-2012</p> <p>http://www.pollingreport.com/ http://www.rasmussenreports.com/</p> <p>for blogs - http://directory.etaltinghead.com/</p>

		<p>voters? What are their slogans? To which demographics are they appealing? Do they use issue ads? Character attacks? Do they rely on rhetoric or do they have concrete policy proposals? Is there anything the candidates are trying to de-emphasize? Which strategy appeals most to you?</p>	
8/10	10	<p>F. Select one presidential candidate to support in a one page endorsement. Explain the factors that you weighed in forming your opinion. Be prepared to support your decision in a class debate. You will be grouped by candidate endorsed, will defend/promote your candidate, and will question the other group about their endorsement.</p>	Use your earlier research.
8/17	10	<p>G. Consider how the presidential candidates interpret the U.S. Constitution. Use the resources you have consulted for the rest of this project, plus the U.S. Constitution, to complete the graphic organizer below. This will help prepare you for Constitution Day in September.</p>	http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html

Presidential Candidates and Constitutional Interpretation

Constitutional Provisions Interpret what each clause means in the boxes below.	Barack Obama's View	Mitt Romney's View
Commerce Clause Article I, Section 8 (Hint: You may want to explore their positions on the Affordable Care Act)		
Elastic Clause Article I, Section 8 (Hint: You may want to explore their positions on the role of the federal government in economic bailouts)		
Privacy Rights 4 th Amendment (Hint: You may want to explore their viewpoints on abortion)		

<p>Establishment Clause/ Free Exercise Clause 1st Amendment (Hint: You may want to explore their viewpoints on the role of religion in politics)</p>		
<p>Gun Rights 2nd Amendment (Hint: You may want to explore their positions on gun control.)</p>		
<p>9th/10th Amendment (increased power for individuals and state governments) versus 14th Amendment (increased power for national government) (Hint: Do they tend to favor leaving policy decisions to states/individuals or to the federal government?)</p>		

A.P. U.S. Government and Politics Name _____
 Summer Presidential Election Project “P.E.P.”
 Grading Rubric

Item	Excellent	Satisfactory	Unacceptable	Points Earned
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A. Issue Selection	3 points Contains three issues that are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪connected to presidential authority with significance demonstrated ▪thoroughly explained with supportive detail 	2 points Contains three issues that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪have some connection to presidential authority ▪ identified with some supportive detail 	0-1 points Three issues are not identified with substantive support	
B. 1. Democratic Positions	5-6 points per candidate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Positions are accurate and well-articulated ▪Scope of legislative/policy connections identified ▪Interest group/PAC link discerned 	3-4 points per candidate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Positions are accurate but general ▪Some evidence of research into connections with legislation, policy, interest groups, and PACs is evident 	0-2 points per candidate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Positions may be inaccurate or unsubstantiated ▪Research into connections is limited or not apparent 	
B. 2. Republican Positions	5-6 points per candidate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Positions are accurate and well-articulated ▪Scope of legislative/policy connections identified ▪Interest group/PAC link discerned 	3-4 points per candidate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Positions are accurate but general ▪Some evidence of research into connections with legislation, policy, interest groups, and PACs is evident 	0-2 points per candidate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Positions may be inaccurate or unsubstantiated ▪Research into connections is limited or not apparent 	

<p>B. 3 Viewpoint Alignment</p>	<p>3 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Manner in which candidate’s views mirror student’s is clearly articulated ▪Anticipation of support is well reasoned ▪Candidate’s ability to impact issue is supported 	<p>2 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Connection between candidate’s views and student’s is somewhat developed but lacks thorough explanation ▪Candidate’s ability to impact issue is addressed but lacks sophistication 	<p>0-1 point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Connection between candidate’s views and student’s is unclear, uneven, or incorrect ▪Candidate’s ability to impact issue is not adequately analyzed 	
<p>C. Party Platforms</p>	<p>9-10 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Platforms on three issues are thoroughly explained ▪All four candidates’ stances are scrutinized in comparison to the platform with specific information ▪Party loyalty position is well reasoned – for candidate as well as for potential voter 	<p>6-8 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Platforms on three issues are accurately identified ▪Candidates’ stances are scrutinized in comparison to the platform to some degree but may be uneven ▪Party loyalty position is explained but could be better developed 	<p>0-5 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Platforms may be inaccurate or incomplete ▪Candidates’ stances are applied incorrectly or incompletely to platforms ▪Party loyalty position is absent or vague 	
<p>D. Campaign Finance</p>	<p>9-10 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Top three contributors for all four candidates correctly identified ▪Outside support is identified/quantified and impact of Citizens United is 	<p>6-8 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Top three contributors for most candidates are correctly identified ▪Outside support is identified and 	<p>0-5 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Top three contributors for most candidates are not correctly identified ▪Outside support/Citizens United impact 	

	<p>analyzed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Explanation of contributions is insightful ▪Data linking donations and platforms is specific and abundant for each candidate ▪Campaign funding position is well stated and well supported 	<p>impact of Citizens United is discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Explanation of contribution is thoughtful but could be better developed ▪Data linking donations and platforms is present but may be limited for most candidates ▪Campaign funding position is clear but could have more detail and insight 	<p>not sufficiently considered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Explanation of contributions is not sophisticated or supported ▪Data linking donations and platforms is too general or absent ▪Campaign funding position is not well developed or absent 	
E. The Trail	<p>18-20 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Detailed highlights of four candidates' summer campaign are described ▪ "Consider" questions are addressed thoughtfully and substantively 	<p>11-17 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Key highlights of candidates' summer campaign are identified but not all ▪ Most "Consider" questions are addressed but could have more detail and development 	<p>0-10 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Few highlights of candidates' summer campaign are identified, may not cover all candidates ▪Few "Consider" questions are addressed thoughtfully with adequate research 	
F. Candidate Endorsement	<p>9-10 points</p> <p>Endorsement is clear, articulate, well supported, and well developed</p>	<p>6-8 points</p> <p>Endorsement is clear and supported but could be better developed with supportive detail and unifying ideas</p>	<p>0-5 points</p> <p>Endorsement is poorly articulated or lacks development</p>	

G. Constitutional Interpretation	9-10 points Demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of constitutional principles and the candidates' positions on all issues	6-8 points Demonstrates an adequate understanding of constitutional principles and the candidates' positions on the majority of issues	0-5 points Lacks ability to fully or accurately apply constitutional principles to candidates' stances	
H. The Debate	9-10 points Arguments supporting candidate and questioning others are convincing and well supported on the offense and defense	6-8 points Some good points are made, but more specific information would have enhanced argument. Performance may be uneven.	0-5 points Student did not participate in the debate or contributed only general comments	

Total Points Earned _____/100