

**WRITING ASSIGNMENT Congress/US Senate [50 points]**

**DUE DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019**

**THE CONGRESS – THE UNITED STATES SENATE**

The Founding Fathers intended that the Senate represent the states, not the people of the state. That vision was changed by the 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution. The 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment provided for the election of senators by the voters of a state. Senators serve six year terms and the Senate has special duties that the House of Representatives does not share. Representing an entire state is a difficult job requiring plenty of work attending events across the state. This research exercise will allow you to understand the United States Senate. **BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS YOUR FINDINGS IN CLASS ON THE DUE DATE OF THE ASSIGNMENT.**

- Resources to be used:
- [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)
  - [www.opencongress.org](http://www.opencongress.org)
  - [www.nationalatlas.gov](http://www.nationalatlas.gov)     [www.ballotpedia.org](http://www.ballotpedia.org)
  - [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
  - Congressional District Atlas* [King’s Library/reference section]
  - The Almanac of American Politics* [Library/reference section]

Each student will be assigned a Member of the current House of Representatives. This assignment is worth 50 points and is due on the date shown above. Some of the basic information will be filled in on this form. [Questions 1 through 7 only.] The remainder of the information will be word processed and stapled to this form. Handwritten responses will not be accepted except for Questions 1 through 7. Neatness is required. Prepare a professional response. Neat and formal. Be sure to number your responses to questions 9 through 16.

Your assigned state is: MAINE

1. Find the following information for your state: [4 points]
 

Senator \_\_\_\_\_ is a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ party.

Senator \_\_\_\_\_ is a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ party.
2. Select one of the two senators above for the remainder of your report by entering his or her name here: \_\_\_\_\_
3. When was this senator first elected to the Senate? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What percent of the vote did the senator receive in the last election? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which presidential candidate won this state in 2012? \_\_\_\_\_ 2016? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What was the 2016 presidential vote percentage for Trump \_\_\_\_\_%  
Clinton \_\_\_\_\_%

The remainder of the questions, which appear on this page, are to be word processed and stapled to the first page of this assignment. Remember your submission must be neat and professional! Points will either be deducted or your submission will be returned if it does not meet professional standards.

8. Find and attach a copy of the state map and staple to the end of your submission. [2]

9. Write a good solid paragraph [many sentences!] describing economy of the state represented by your senator. In other words, what major industries/activities make up the state's economy? Is the state economy based on industry, agriculture, or service industries? Who are the major employers? [5]

10. What is the racial and ethnic makeup of the state? White? Black? Latino/Hispanic? Write a good solid paragraph describing the social and ethnic makeup of the district *state* represented by your assigned Member. [5]

11. Each senator serves on several senate committees or subcommittees. List at least three [3] Senate committees or subcommittees which your senator serves on. [9]

For the last few questions, review the senator's website at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

12. List [3] specific issues that the senator has an interest in according to his/her website. [6]

[One sentence per issue but be specific. Don't just list "education" for example but be clear about exactly what the Member advocates.]

13. Take one of those two issues and explain the senator's position on the issue. Does the senator's position make sense considering either the economy of the state or the demographic makeup of the state? Explain this in your own words. Do not cut and paste from the Senator's website!!![5]

14. Look at the Senator's biography. What political offices did the Senator hold before being elected to the Senate? What other experience [business? Personal?] does the senator bring to the Senate. [4]

15. Find a picture of the Senator. Print the picture out and attach it at the end of your paper. [3]

16. What is the most interesting or unique fact you learned in doing this research project? [1]