

WRITING ASSIGNMENT Congress/House Members [50 points]

DUE DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019

THE CONGRESS – THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Founding Fathers intended that the House of Representatives would most closely represent the views of citizens. Therefore, the House has short terms of office [2 years] and members represent smaller districts while Senators represent the whole state. Representatives must be in touch with their districts if they hope to win re-election. This research exercise will allow you to understand the House of Representatives. BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS YOUR FINDINGS IN CLASS ON THE DUE DATE OF THE ASSIGNMENT.

Resources to be used: www.house.gov
www.opencongress.org
www.nationalatlas.gov
www.ballotpedia.org
www.census.gov

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 8 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 8.

Neatness is required. Prepare a professional response. Neat and formal.

Be sure to number your responses to questions 9 through 16.

Your assigned representative is:

DOUG CAMALFA

The first eight questions have ten points worth of credit.

1. What district and state does your representative represent? _____
2. What political party does your representative belong to? _____
3. When was your representative first elected to the House? _____
4. What percent of the vote did your Member receive in the 2016 election? _____
5. Based on the 2016 election result, is this House district rated as Safe D, Safe R or Tossup for 2018? _____ [Safe = 55% or more of the total vote.]
6. Which presidential candidate won this district in 2012? _____ 2016? _____
7. What was the 2016 presidential vote percentage for Trump _____ %
Clinton _____ %
8. What is the population of this district as of the 2010 Census? _____

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.

9. Using *www.national atlas.gov* or a similar source, find and attach a copy of the House district map to the end of your submission. [2]

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

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

12. Each House Member serves on several House committees or subcommittees. List at least three [3] House committees or subcommittees which your Member serves on. [9]

For the last few questions, review the Member's website at www.house.gov.

13. List [3] issues that the Member 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.]

14. Take one of those two issues and explain the Member's position on the issue. Explain this in your own words. Do not cut and paste from the Member's website!!![5]

15. Look at the Member's biography. What political offices did the Member hold before being elected to Congress? What other experience [business? Personal?] does the Member bring to Congress. [4]

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

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