



Student Homework

2022 FOUR DAY ALUMNI HOMEWORK
NEBRASKA STUDENTS ONLY

2022 FOUR DAY ALUMNI HOMEWORK - NEBRASKA

Students should bring two copies of their completed homework: one to turn in and one to reference throughout the week. They should bring three copies of their bill. We encourage you to refer to the homework checklist on page 8 when preparing your homework for class.

If you are attending a class in a state other than your own, you will need to do the homework for the state where you are attending, not the state where you live. For example, if you live in Nebraska but are attending the Kansas class, you should do the homework for Kansas.

1 Review the vocabulary and questions from the Pre-Class Vocabulary List (pages 9-14).

- ★ All Students, First Time and Alumni, will be responsible for this information on quizzes throughout the week. Alumni are not required to turn in the vocabulary and definitions.
- ★ **Purpose: To be prepared for in-class discussions.**



HOMEWORK TIP

If you still have your homework from your first time at the Four Day Class, feel free to reference that as you complete the Vocabulary List.

2 Complete the State Political Fact Sheet (page 15) using resources on the internet and in your local library.

- ★ You may have to use several sources to get this information:
 - ★ Visit teenpact.com/state-official-website to find your state's official website.
 - ★ Open States (openstates.org) also has information on your elected officials.
- ★ **If you are completing the homework before January 1**, it is possible that some government seats may have changed because of recent elections. It is better to wait and complete the fact sheet after you are sure that all elections are over and the current officials are serving in their respective roles.
- ★ **Purpose: To be informed regarding the current leaders and political trends in your state.**



HOMEWORK TIP

*Remember to complete the fact sheet according to your **STATE** government information, not federal. Don't be intimidated—it just takes a little patience! Make sure all of your information is up to date.*

3

Send a letter to your state Senator (not federal), thanking him/her for serving and telling him/her about one issue or idea you think is important in your state.

- ★ Refer to the Sample Letter (page 16) when formatting your letter.
- ★ Need to know where to send the letter? Go to Open States (openstates.org) and search for your state Senator.
- ★ Remember to check your grammar and spelling.
- ★ In everything, be respectful and use the proper title of Senator when addressing him/her.
- ★ Mail the letter at least two weeks before the class to ensure it arrives in time.
- ★ Take time to pray for your Senator by name before sending your letter.
- ★ If preferred, it is also acceptable to send your letter via email.
- ★ **Purpose: To experience how easy it is to communicate with your elected official and to participate in the process by making your opinions known.**



HOMEWORK TIP

Consider asking questions about why he/she supports a particular issue or what he/she hopes to accomplish during his/her time in the legislature. Remember to write your state Senator, not federal.

4

Read or watch your Governor's most recent State of the State Address. Create a list using the worksheet (page 17) of the issues addressed (at least three or more) by the Governor in his /her speech.

- ★ You can usually find the speech on your Governor's website under "Press Releases" or "Speeches." In some cases, you may have to call the Governor's office and ask how to obtain a copy. If your Governor was recently elected or hasn't given an address yet, use the last address available.
- ★ **Purpose: To know the current issues in your state, as defined by your current Governor.**



HOMEWORK TIP

Keep these questions in mind while you read/watch the State of the State Address: How does this affect your state? What does this tell you about your Governor's priorities? What key issues did he/she not address?

5

Write a one-page bill on an issue important to you and relevant to your state.

- ★ Please choose a serious topic for the first bill. If you want to write an additional bill, you may write it on a serious or fun topic.
- ★ Refer to our Sample Bill for the correct format (page 18) when writing your bill.
- ★ Include at least five sections in your bill explaining: (1) the purpose, (2) the bill's goal, (3) the plan of action, (4) when the bill will become law, and (5) how the bill will be funded. Check the Sample Bill to make sure your format is correct.
- ★ Please choose topics which are appropriate for the age and environment of the class.
- ★ **Purpose: To develop a better understanding of the legislative process.**



HOMEWORK TIP

Think outside the box about issues that will spark conversation between you and your peers. Be respectful in your topic choice and try to write your bill on a new topic that you haven't used before.

6

Alumni Track Preparation

On a hot summer day in 1776, John Hancock famously affixed his signature to the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. The Founders held that “Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” By the time the Constitution of the United States was ratified in 1788, the American colonies had fully broken free from the English monarchy and established a new government, one that President Lincoln would later refer to as a “government of the people, by the people, for the people.”

This form of government was thought to be an experiment at first, but now it is understood that “the United States Constitution is the world’s longest surviving written charter of government.” This charter established a long-standing system of checks and balances between three branches of government in an attempt to limit that government and protect individual rights. But perhaps there is no more important check than this: voting by individuals in elections.

Voting is a foundational pillar of our democratic republic. It is an essential way that we influence our local community, our state, and our nation. Over the years, various suffrage movements have successfully secured the right to vote for women, people of color, and young adults ages 18 and older. What then is our responsibility as citizens of the United States coming of age as voters ourselves?

It has been said that “an enlightened citizenry is indispensable for the proper functioning of a republic.” To this end Thomas Jefferson once wrote, “Above all things I hope the education of the common people will be attended to, convinced that on their good sense we may rely with the most security for the preservation of a due degree of liberty.” Voting affords citizens the opportunity to influence government and society, but it is likewise a serious responsibility, worthy of your consideration.

This 2022 Alumni Track is designed to help you better understand the history and significance of your right to vote in the United States, and as you consider how you will vote, identify the biblical values that ought to guide you in making wise decisions as a voter. The following assignments will direct your pre-class study and prepare you for in-class sessions. Throughout the week you will dialogue with your Program Director and other Alumni Students about your research, participate in a survey to discover general public opinion on these issues, and discuss more of what it means to participate as a Christian and citizen of the United States through voting.

¹ Scott Bomboy, “On this day, the Declaration of Independence is officially signed,” Interactive Constitution (August 2020): <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/blog/on-this-day-the-declaration-of-independence-is-officially-signed>.

² Thomas Jefferson, et al, July 4, 1776, Transcription of Declaration of Independence, <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>.

³ Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1863, Transcript of Gettysburg Address: https://rnc.library.cornell.edu/gettysburg/good_cause/transcript.htm.

⁴ “Constitution Day,” United States Senate, accessed July 14, 2021, <https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/generic/ConstitutionDay.htm>.

⁵ “Thomas Jefferson on Politics and Government: Educating the People,” Family Guardian, accessed July 14, 2021, <https://www.famguardian.org/Subjects/Politics/ThomasJefferson/jeff1350.htm>.

1. Definitions

Research and describe the following terms. When possible, please use Webster's 1828 Dictionary. (webstersdictionary1828.com).

- ★ Civil Liberty
- ★ Jurisdiction
- ★ Viewpoint Discrimination
- ★ Freedom of Speech
- ★ Unalienable
- ★ Censorship

2. Biblical Foundation

Read the following scripture and answer to each of the questions below.

- ★ **Daniel 2:20-21.** Who is our highest and ultimate authority above all governments?
- ★ **Proverbs 11:14.** Why should multiple people participate in governing decisions?
- ★ **Exodus 18:21 and Deuteronomy 1:13.** What are some of the qualities we ought to expect in our leaders?
- ★ **Proverbs 8:16.** Why do our leaders need wisdom?
- ★ **Romans 13:1-2.** How do we submit to the governing authorities through the voting process and its outcome?
- ★ **1 Peter 2:13-17.** What document serves as the highest political authority in the United States, even above the President and Congress?

3. American Origin + Historical Development

Read the documents and answer each question below.

- ★ **[A Short History of Voting in the Ancient World.](#)**
 - Do you see more of a Greek or Roman influence in our voting system in the United States?
- ★ **[Article 1, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution.](#)**
 - Who is responsible to prescribe the times, places, and manner of holding Elections?
 - What power is reserved for the states?
 - What power is reserved for Congress?
- ★ **The following Amendments to the U.S. Constitution:**
 - [The 15th Amendment \(1870\)](#)
 - Who is guaranteed the right to vote under this amendment?
 - [The 19th Amendment \(1920\)](#)
 - Who is guaranteed the right to vote under this amendment?
 - [The 24th Amendment \(1964\)](#)
 - Who is guaranteed the right to vote under this amendment?
 - [The 26th Amendment \(1971\)](#)
 - Who is guaranteed the right to vote under this amendment?
- ★ **[Who Can and Can't Vote in U.S. Elections.](#)**
 - Why is it important that you be a citizen to vote in U.S. elections?
 - Who is and who is not eligible to vote?
 - Which answer surprised you the most?

- ★ **The July 2, 2021 Supreme Court Case of [Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee](#).** After reading the sections titled *Facts of the Case*, *Question*, and *Conclusion*, consider the outcome of the case.
 - Why did the majority hold that the State of Arizona’s laws and policies in question were not enacted with a racially discriminatory purpose?
- ★ **Find out who serves as the Chief Elections Officer in your state. You may review [Election Administration at State and Local Levels](#) in your research.**
 - Is this position elected or appointed?
 - What difference could that make?
- ★ **Research your state’s specific voting laws. You may find this information by first locating your [state government website](#).**
 - When is the first election wherein you will be eligible to vote?
 - How do you register to vote in your state?

4. Essays (500 word minimum each)

- ★ **Write one (1) essay about the significance of the 24th Amendment and how it finally guaranteed the right to vote for all eligible citizens.**
- ★ **Write one (1) essay identifying three criteria you should use to evaluate the candidates for whom you vote.**

HOMWORK NOTE

Print two copies of each essay. You will keep one copy of each essay for your own reference and will be required to turn in one copy of each essay for grading. You will not be required to submit anything related to the terms or research sections of the Alumni homework.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

The following assignment will give Students a better understanding of the Four Day State Class and the fundamental ideas and strategies involved in the campaign process. While this assignment is not required, we do highly recommend that Students complete it in preparation for the class.

7

Campaign Preparation

During the TeenPact week, we will hold class-wide elections for Governor and Senator. Once elected, these officials will have the distinct honor of representing the Student body at graduation. During the week, every Student will participate in elections in some capacity: Candidate, Campaign Manager, Grassroots Activist, and Voter. With so many roles to participate in, we recommend that you:

- ★ **Develop a campaign slogan.** Your slogan should be memorable for the other Students. Think about your goal for the campaign. You can make your slogan quick and catchy, or a little more thought provoking. Your slogan will help the Students remember who you are and understand your campaign. Choose wisely!
- ★ **Write a short speech on why you might make a good Governor or Senator to represent your fellow Students.** During the class, you will have the opportunity to answer questions and convince the other Students why you would represent the class well as their Governor or Senator. Think of a few reasons to present to the class, and you'll be that much more prepared.
- ★ **Think about a favorite Bible verse or message you can share with your fellow Students.** This will help in preparation for your campaign, give clear reasons why you are running, and help Students connect with your candidacy.
- ★ **Bring campaign supplies.** Be creative with candy, signs, flyers, etc! Have fun thinking of ways to relate to your fellow Students who will be voting in the election.
- ★ **Read about campaigning.** Understanding what a campaign looks like will help you as you participate in campaigning throughout the week. Review some historical campaigns and basic principles that made them successful. If you plan to run for office, think of ways you can build a campaign team and share with them what you learn in your research.
- ★ **Purpose: To be prepared for in-class elections.**

Completed Homework Checklist

Please bring these items to class on Monday:

- Two copies of your State Political Fact Sheet
- Two copies of your letter to your **state** Senator (for your district)
- Two copies of your State of the State Address Worksheet
- Three copies of your bill
- Two copies of each of your Alumni essays
- One copy of your campaign preparation notes (*optional*)



Name: _____

Pre-Class Vocabulary List

Research the terms using a dictionary or other reference resources, then define each term in your own words.

SECTION ONE

Government _____

“That government is best which governs least.” Based on this quote (which is commonly attributed to Thomas Jefferson) and the general definition of the term *government*, do you agree or disagree with this quote? Why or why not?

Considering the definition of the term *government*, how would you define the term *self-government*?

SECTION TWO

Justice _____

Liberty _____

SECTION THREE

Republic _____

Democracy _____

Democratic Republic _____

Which of these terms best describes the United States' form of government? _____

What about your state? _____

Explain why? _____

SECTION FOUR

Legislative Branch _____

Executive Branch _____

Judicial Branch _____

Checks and Balances _____

How does the separation of powers between the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches provide *checks and balances* for one another? _____

SECTION FIVE

Election _____

Appointment _____

Considering the definitions of these two terms, what are some governmental positions that are *by election*? _____

What are some governmental positions that are *by appointment*? _____

What are some advantages and disadvantages to election? Appointment? _____

SECTION SIX

Democrat _____

Republican _____

Bipartisan _____

SECTION SEVEN

District _____

Redistrict _____

Gerrymander _____

What is the difference between *redistricting* and *gerrymandering*? _____

SECTION EIGHT

Primary Election _____

General Election _____

Runoff Election _____

Grassroots _____

What are examples of *grassroots* involvement in elections? _____



Name: _____

State Political Fact Sheet

Research and fill in the blanks. Remember to use state government information rather than federal government information. **All information should be memorized.**

1. My Senator's name is _____.
2. There are (#) _____ Senators currently in office in my state.
3. The ratio of Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and vacancies in the Senate is ____D, ____R, ____I, and ____V.
4. My Governor's name is _____.
5. My Lt. Governor's name is _____.
6. My Attorney General's name is _____.
7. My Secretary of State's name is _____.
8. My Chief Justice is _____.
9. My President of the Senate is _____.
10. I live in state Senate District number _____.
11. There are (#) _____ Supreme Court Justices in my state.
12. Are my state Supreme Court Justices elected or appointed? Elected Appointed
If both, please explain the process. _____

Sample Letter to your Senator

123 My Street
Small Town, State 11233

Senator Fred Dyson
100 State Capitol Avenue, Room 225
Capital City, State 22311

Dear Senator Dyson,

In the body of your letter, make sure that you:

- ★ Thank your legislator for his/her service to your community and state.
- ★ Tell him/her that you are praying for him/her.
- ★ Tell him/her about TeenPact and what you will be learning about during the class.

Other ideas include:

- ★ Respectfully write about an issue that relates to your state.
- ★ Ask if you can stop by your legislator's office after class ends on Thursday or Friday.
(NOTE: This may not be possible if you have a residential class. Contact your State Coordinator if you have questions about the best time to set up an appointment!)

Sincerely,

Jane Doe

Jane Doe



HOMWORK TIP

Always use the correct title of Senator when writing your letter.



Name: _____

State of the State Address Worksheet

Read or watch your Governor's most recent State of the State Address. **Create a list of the issues addressed (at least three or more) by the Governor in his/her speech.**

ISSUE # 1 _____

ISSUE # 2 _____

ISSUE # 3 _____

ISSUE # 4 (OPTIONAL) _____

ISSUE # 5 (OPTIONAL) _____

Sample Bill

This is a standard format to follow when writing your bill for TeenPact Legislature. Each state legislature has their own design for their bills. Take a look at a bill from your state to check out the similarities and differences.

By: John Doe ←	Author
Senate Bill # _____ ←	Bill number
A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT	
Motorist Safety Act of 2022 ←	Title
PURPOSE: To reduce the number of deaths and severe injuries caused by traffic accidents. ←	Reasons you think this bill is important.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF (your state name)	
Section 1. For the purpose of this act, "motorist" shall mean any person controlling a motorized vehicle used for the purpose of moving persons or freight on the highways of this state. ←	The actual specific law that you want to pass with all the details spelled out. This will include definitions, plan of action, and means of enforcement.
Section 2. It is unlawful for a motorist to travel at a speed of more than 65 miles per hour on an interstate or more than 55 miles per hour on any other highway in this state.	
Section 3. Any person who violates this act shall be subject to a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per violation.	
Section 4. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.	
Section 5. This act shall become effective 30 days after approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law. ←	State exactly when your bill will take effect if passed.
Section 6. Upon approval by the Governor, this bill will be reviewed by the Appropriation Committee for funding. ←	State how your bill will be funded.



NOTE TO PARENTS

All Students will have the chance to present their bills before the class; however, due to time constraints, not every bill will be further debated during TeenPact's mock legislature.