



Student Homework

2024 FOUR DAY ALUMNI HOMEWORK
NEBRASKA STUDENTS ONLY

2024 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 State 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 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 Pre-Class 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.
- ★ Take time to pray for your senator by name before sending your letter.
- ★ Mail the letter at least two weeks before the class to ensure it arrives in time.
- ★ 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 legislative 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 (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 your bill. If you want to write an additional bill, you may write it on a serious or fun topic.
- ★ Refer to our Sample Bill (page 18) for the correct format when writing your bill.
- ★ Include at least five sections in your bill:
 1. The title
 2. The purpose
 3. The plan of action
 4. When the bill will take effect after becoming law
 5. How the bill will be funded
- ★ Please choose topics which are appropriate for the age and environment of the class.
- ★ **Purpose: To develop a better understanding of the legislative process.**



HOMWORK TIP

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

6

Alumni Track Preparation

On July 4, 1776, upon signing the Declaration of Independence, fifty-six of our Founding Fathers claimed the right of freedom on behalf of the original thirteen American colonies. In so doing, they firmly relied “on the protection of divine providence,” willingly pledging their “lives, fortunes, and sacred honor.”¹ Motivated by both principle and liberty, they intended to create something entirely unique: a form of government driven by justice, intentionally limited, and designed to protect the individual rights of its citizens. To this end, it would recognize the fallen nature of man, while empowering them with opportunity to be what God created.

To secure this vision, in 1787, the Continental Congress formed the U.S. Constitution. Ratified by the states a year later, it became the supreme law of the land. With carefully crafted boundaries, the founders separated power into Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches, forcing a process of checks-and-balances to attain their goal. No branch would hold complete control and those who filled the necessary responsibilities within each would be directly or indirectly determined through voting citizens. The United States truly would be a nation, as President Lincoln later said, “of the people, by the people, and for the people.”²

As Christians and American citizens, we must understand the role of government and our responsibility as individuals. What is the biblical role of government? What guiding principles led our nation’s Founding Fathers to structure the United States government in this way? What is your responsibility as an individual?

The following assignments will direct your pre-class study and prepare you for in-class sessions. Throughout the week, your Program Director will facilitate a discussion with alumni students about the biblical role of government. You will dialogue with other students about your research, conduct a survey to understand public opinion, and draw conclusions that will guide your civic involvement for years to come.

As you research this topic, consider how your Christian faith ought to guide your participation in the political process. We must develop biblical convictions about what we believe, why we believe it, and understand how those beliefs affect our lives and communities. Our country is in desperate need of godly leadership, and at TeenPact, we believe in the capacity of young people to do just that—lead. Be the leader you were made to be. Enjoy your study, and we’ll see you at the State Class!

1 The Declaration of Independence, 1776.

2 “The Gettysburg Address,” 1863.

1. Definitions

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

- ★ Liberty (Read the third definition, Civil Liberty)
- ★ Justice
- ★ Government
- ★ Jurisdiction

2. Biblical Foundation

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

★ **Read Micah 6:8**

What does God require of individuals?

★ **Read Romans 13:1-7**

What does God require of the government?

- ★ How does the role of the individual differ from the role of government?

3. American Origin

Read the following documents and write out an answer to each of the questions below.

★ **Read the Declaration of Independence**

Why are governments "instituted among men?"

★ **Read the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution**

List each of the reasons given for why the Constitution was written.

★ **Read Federalist No. 51**

How did the Founding Fathers accomplish their objective of limited government?

4. Write two (2) essays (500 word minimum each)

- ★ Write one essay from a biblical perspective on God's intended purpose for the institution of government and the scope of its jurisdiction.
- ★ Write one essay about the Founding Fathers' vision for a limited government in the United States, and the structure they created to accomplish this goal.
- ★ Each essay should meet the following MLA academic standards.
 - ★ *Minimum of 500 words*
 - ★ *Typeface: Times New Roman, 11pts*
 - ★ *One-inch page margins*
 - ★ *A header with author's last name and page number, one-half inch from the top of each page*
 - ★ *Double-spaced paragraph*



HOMEWORK 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 you 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 you 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 options for participation, 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 for 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. Remember, you won't need to turn in this worksheet, but you will need to bring a copy with you for your personal reference during the class.

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 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 at the federal and state level? 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* and *Appointment*?

SECTION SIX

Political Party _____

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?

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 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 is _____.
5. My lieutenant-governor is _____.
6. My attorney general is _____.
7. My secretary of state 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. My state supreme court justices are: 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 (three or more) by your 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 2024 ←	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 Legislature.