

Project Vote Smart Scavenger Hunt

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: You and a partner will be given about 30 minutes to work through this scavenger hunt. You will be exploring a website that collects data on public officials and people running for office in the United States. Start out by going to votesmart.org.

1. Scroll down to the button 'Government and Officials' select the link '[Offices & Officials](#)'. Under 'Office Type', select *Congressional*. Then select the state you live in, and under the 'Chamber' drop down select *Senator*.. Who are your Senators?

A. _____ B. _____

Circle the senator above that you would like to research. Then click on that senator on the website. Now you are on your senator's profile. From here find the following information:

A. What is your senator's Washington D.C. office address?

B. What is his or her office phone number?

C. What kind of social media sites does s/he have?

D. Click on the link to your senator's Washington D.C. website, find what committees s/he currently serves on, and list 3 of them here:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Now Click on the folder marked 'Bio' at the top and answer the following:

1. What is the highest degree your senator has achieved (GED, Bachelor, Masters, Doctorate)? What university or high school did s/he get it from?

2. List one other interesting fact you found on the 'Bio' page:

At the top of the page, click on the 'Votes' folder and answer the following questions:

1. What was the most recent bill your senator has voted on? Please include the bill title and bill number.

Number: _____

Title: _____

2. In your own words, and in a sentence or two, what is this Senate bill about?

3. Did this bill pass in the Senate? What was the vote count?

Yes or No (circle one)

Vote Count: _____

4. How did your senator vote on this bill? Do you agree with his/her decision? Explain in a sentence or two.

Now click on the 'Positions' folder at the top of the page.

1. You will see a series of questions. Pick two that are important to you and describe the position of your senator on these issues.

Issue: _____

Issue: _____

2. In a sentence, describe why your senator supports, or doesn't support, the issue:

Click on the 'Ratings' folder and use the drop down menu to pick one issue that is important to you.

1. What issue did you select? _____

2. Name at least two special interest groups (SIGs) that rated your senator on this issue.

3. What rating did these groups give your senator?

4. Explain what these ratings mean to you. Why do you think SIGs exist?