Creating your Profile

**Background:**

Each member of the U.S. House of Representatives is elected by the voters in one of 435 geographic districts. Each House district includes approximately 650,000 citizens, except that states with smaller populations are guaranteed one Representative.. In addition, the House includes non-voting delegates from the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Each member of the U.S. Senate represents a state, which can include less than 1 million or over 36 million citizens.

Your first task is to create your member profile on the LegSim website. You need to select and describe the political characteristics of the real world district or state you will represent over the coming weeks. In your abbreviated description on your profile, **focus on the characteristics that would likely affect your own priorities and behavior as an elected representative.** Other students will be relying on your profile to learn more about you and your legislative priorities.

1. Describe your district or state’s unique ***cultural and geographic characteristics***. Describe its ***political history***. What features of the district deserve mention? For example, what do people do for ***employment***? Is the population homogenous or diverse economically, ethnically, or socially? Historically, what ***issues*** would seem to be of paramount concern for many voters in your district? Which party's presidential candidates have received the most support in recent years? In a separate paragraph, briefly describe your own personal political views and policy priorities.

Edit your description to about 150 words and post it to your profile page.

1. Answer the survey questions to help others learn about your personal ideology.
2. Consider uploading a photo that other students can use to identify you. Do not upload a photo of someone or something else!

Resources

[Almanac of American Politics](http://www.nationaljournal.com/almanac/2010/index.php)**:** Available in Odegaard and also on-line (?) from NationalJournal.com through the UW Library.

[Politics in America](http://library.cqpress.com/pia/): Similar to the Almanac, published by Congressional Quarterly and available on-line (?) to from CQ.com through the UW Library.

Demographic information about congressional districts and states (public domain):

[US Census Fast Facts for Congress](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ACSCWSFacts?_event=Search&geo_id=&_geoContext=&_street=&_county=&_cd=&_state=&_zip=98110&_lang=en&_sse=on&pctxt=fph&pgsl=010&_industry=)

Representative and Senator websites also typically have constituency descriptions but lack the political analyses found in the above resources