

****Important: Do not compose assignments on LegSim. Use a word processing program and copy and paste. You may not be able to edit what you submit. In addition, you may lose your internet connection and your work.****

Creating your Profile – House or Senate

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.

This task asks you to create your member profile on the LegSim website. Other students will be relying on your profile to learn more about you. **Focus on the characteristics that would likely affect your own priorities and behavior as an elected representative.**

In one single spaced page or less:

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

When you have finished, go to members/edit profile on LegSim and copy and paste your responses to these two tasks in the appropriate text boxes.

- 3) Answer the survey questions to help others learn about your personal ideology.
- 4) 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](#): Available in Odegaard and also on-line (?) from NationalJournal.com through the UW Library.

[Politics in America](#):

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](#)

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