

Final Report on Legislative Accomplishments (Due in class at the start of the exam period, Dec. 12, 8:00 AM)

This assignment asks you to connect course concepts what you have learned in this course to what you have accomplished as a legislator in the simulation. Your report should be approximately 8 to 10 pages in length (double spaced) and it should demonstrate an appreciation of the relevant readings. Take this seriously, as it is worth 20% of your overall course grade.

Part I (Assessment of your record / opponent's record)

- a) Objectively evaluate your legislative accomplishments. Highlight both the activities that will help you get reelected in your state, as well as the activities that may create problems during your reelection campaign. This should be the longest part of your paper.
- b) Do the same for your designated opponent's record in his/her state.

Part II (Election strategies)

- a) Design your reelection strategy and campaign slogan. This strategy must be sensitive to the state that you represent. It should describe specific tactics for emphasizing aspects of your legislative record that will help you win reelection. It should also anticipate and describe how you will respond to the issues that your opponent is likely to raise against you during that campaign.
- b) Design a strategy and campaign slogan for defeating your opponent in her state, by drawing on her record in office. You should focus on how well your opponent represented their state, their voting record, their issue focus, etc. No negative *personal* attacks are allowed, however. Negativity regarding the record is fine. Missed votes and lack of participation are fair game.

Part III (Assessing your Colleagues)

- a) Who among your political allies was most successful in helping achieve your legislative goals? What did they do to be helpful?
- b) Who among your political opponents was most challenging to deal with or proved a most formidable opponent to your goals? Explain and support.

Conclusion

- a) Compare your experience in Legsim with the actual US Senate that you've learned about in class. How was the simulated Senate different from the real deal? How was it similar? Briefly discuss at least one component for each and provide evidence from the simulation and course.
- b) Assess your experience with Legsim. What was the most educational/rewarding aspect of the simulation? What was the most interesting experience/interaction in which you were involved that occurred in the simulation?

To score well:

There must be clear links between what you write in your report and key course concepts discussed during the first parts of the class. If you don't make these linkages, you will not score well! It is best if you make these linkages very clear.