***LegSim Checklist—if you finish something on the checklist, move on to the next item!***

*Due at the end of class on Wednesday, November 11th:*

**\_\_\_\_\_** Register and create an account. Go to [www.legsim.org](http://www.legsim.org) and enter your username and password (provided by Mr. Wilbur).

\_\_\_\_\_ Choose a district/constituency to represent. Go to <http://www.census.gov/mycd/?eml=gd> to learn more about different districts. Check with Mr. Wilbur to make sure that the district has not been taken.

\_\_\_\_\_ Click on “Edit Profile” on the Member Desk page. Enter your constituency in the drop-down menu. Then, answer the survey questions and click “Update Profile”.

\_\_\_\_\_ You should be back at your “Member Desk”. Next, click on “PARTY” (underneath your e-mail address), and then click on “Chamber Parties”. On the next page, click the Republican Party and Democratic Party links. Once you have read the descriptions of both parties, choose the one you like best and click “Join Party”.

\_\_\_\_\_ Read the Committee Descriptions. Under the “Committees” tab, click on “View Membership Requests”. Choose two committees you are interested in and click “Submit Requests”. Here are your choices:

Committee Descriptions

Education and Labor: Labor generally, Worker training, Education programs generally.

Energy and Commerce: Energy generally, Interstate commerce, Health including Medicaid and SCHIP (unless supported by payroll deductions), Consumer affairs, Travel and tourism.

Homeland Security: Overall homeland security policy, Border security, Customs, Transportation security, Domestic preparedness, Information.

Foreign Affairs: Foreign relations, Export controls, Loans, International organizations, Interventions and declarations of war.

Natural Resources: Fisheries and wildlife, Forest reserves and national parks, Intl fishing agreements, Irrigation, Native Americans, Mining and minerals, Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

Science and Technology: Science, Energy research and development, Environmental research, Space, Civil Aviation, Weights and measures.

Transportation and Infrastructure: Transportation generally, Coast Guard, FEMA, Navigation, Flood Control, Public Buildings, Hydroelectric power.

Ways and Means: Taxes generally, Customs revenue, trade agreements, territories, tax exempt foundations, Social Security programs including income security and Medicare (funded by payroll deductions).

You will be serving on two committees (I will try to make sure that you get at least one of your choices).

\_\_\_\_\_ Read the “Member Tutorial” by going to the “Tutorials” tab on the right side of the page, and then select “Member Tutorial”. This is an incredibly important overview.

*Due Friday, November 13th:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Complete the Personal Statement assignment.

Personal Statement Assignment (25 points)

Congratulations on your recent election! You have settled into your new office and the legislative session is about to begin. Your staff has gathered in your Washington D.C. office. They will be acting on your behalf over the coming legislative session, so it is very important that you provide them with clear vision of who you are and your legislative priorities. They are smart and ambitious, and they're not going to stick around if they sense that all you care about is getting reelected - what fun is that? They want to be inspired to get out there and hustle on your behalf!

Prepare a memo to distribute to your “staff” and the other legislators in 25 double spaced, 1” margin lines with 12 point Times New Roman font:

1. This memo should begin with how you view your role as a representative. Are you more of a trustee or a delegate?
2. Summarize your own political views.
3. Provide information about your personal issue priorities. In other words, what issues are most important to you and why?
4. Next, discuss how you intend to advance your issue goals given that there are so many other legislators and issues competing for attention.

**Turning in the assignment (2 steps):** You will upload a copy of your response to Turnitin.com. Then, copy and paste your response onto your LegSim page in the “Personal Statement” box on the “Edit Profile” page. Make sure that you click “Update Profile” at the bottom of the page.

*Due Monday, November 16th:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Complete the Constituency Profile assignment.

Constituency Profile Assignment (25 points)

The U.S. House of Representatives is elected by the voters in one of 435 geographic districts. Each House district includes approximately 750,000 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.

This task asks you to add to your member profile on the LegSim website. Other students will be relying on your profile to learn more about you.

In 25 double spaced, 1’ margin lines with 12 point Times New Roman font:

1. Describe your district or state’s unique ***cultural and geographic characteristics***.
2. Describe its ***political history***. Include which party's presidential candidates have received the most support in recent years.
3. 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?
4. Historically, what ***issues*** seem to be of paramount concern for many voters in your district or state?

Start your research at <http://www.census.gov/mycd/?eml=gd>. Then, try the Wikipedia page for your district as well as the Ballotpedia page for your district. For #4, you can search online for a local newspaper from your district and see what issues are in the news. You must include a works cited page, which does not count toward the length of your response.

**Turning in the assignment (2 steps):** You will upload a copy of your response to Turnitin.com. Then, copy and paste your response onto your LegSim page in the “Constituency Profile” box on the “Edit Profile” page. Make sure that you click “Update Profile” at the bottom of the page.

*Due Wednesday, November 18th* ***at 7:00 AM:***

\_\_\_\_\_ Do the Major Bill Assignment.

Major Bill Assignment (75 points)

**Overview:**

One of the most rewarding aspects of being a legislator is sponsoring a bill that is eventually enacted into law. This is not an easy task for a number of reasons. Legislators will often disagree about priorities, and resources are limited for even those things that legislators do agree deserve attention. Fewer than 1 out of 10 bills introduced in Congress eventually makes it into law.

You can sponsor as many bills as you prefer on any subject. However, this assignment asks you to research and draft an *original* and *significant* bill of your choosing. If you don’t know where to begin, consider looking at some actual bills by visiting the Library of Congress’ Thomaswebsite or the bills that different members have sponsored. Then you should look at the sample bill at the bottom of this assignment.

**Here are the steps:**

1. **Think**.
   1. How is a bill structured? To see a sample bill, go to <http://faculty.washington.edu/jwilker/353/billSample.pdf> or look at a bill introduced into Congress at <https://beta.congress.gov/>.
   2. Decide on a topic. Choose an important policy issue that interests you. Begin by drafting some initial language that conforms to the structure of the Sample bill (title, findings and purposes, etc.).
   3. What strategic considerations should you think about when you draft the actual language of your bill? In other words, what language and ideas will receive enough support to pass?
2. **Research your subject.** It is entirely appropriate for you to develop your bill based on the work of others, whether policy organizations or legislators. However, your bill should be original in the sense that it reflects your own approach to the problem, as opposed to copying and pasting language developed by others. Originality counts!
3. **Write your bill.** 
   1. Give the bill a title. The bill’s title should obviously give some idea of what the bill is about, and should also make the bill sound like it will make the issue/America better. A positive acronym is also a common (but not necessary) feature of bill titles. Do not include a bill number; the website will do this for you.
   2. Write the actual text of the bill. The bill should be divided into sections, with each section covering one major aspect or proposal of the bill. Here are the sections. As you write, please number each section with a Roman numeral:
      1. What is proposed?
      2. What government agency or government official will administer it? Be specific.
      3. How will the proposal be administered/run/implemented? Be specific.
      4. Are there penalties for non-compliance? Be specific.
      5. Who enforces these penalties? Remember, federal laws are enforced by the federal government.
      6. How much funding is provided? *(Note: this can be difficult to decide. When doing research, try to figure out how much existing programs cost, and estimate the cost of your own proposal to the best of your ability).*
      7. When does the program take effect?
      8. If you don’t want your bill to be in effect indefinitely, you may want to include a section with a “sunset clause”, which sets an end date for your program.
      9. Your last section should be an “Authorization of Appropriations” section, which gives an estimate of the total cost of your bill. Again, give your best estimation.
4. **Write the supporting text (“Findings and Purposes”).** *This should be at least 15 lines, double-spaced, using Times New Roman, 12 point font, and 1” margins.*
   * 1. This section will include background on your bill, including
        1. Why the bill is being proposed
        2. A short background on the issues involved in your bill
        3. Why this bill will improve the status quo—in other words, why the bill is a good idea, and why it will be likely to work.
        4. A works cited list with all of the research that you did to write the bill and the supporting text. You must include at least three sources.
5. **Get feedback**. Share your proposed idea with respected colleagues (and your teacher) and ask for feedback and suggestions. After all, you will need your classmate’s support later on. Give yourself time to tweak and improve your idea.
6. **Introduce your bill on LegSim.** Proofread! You will not be able to edit your bill after you have submitted it.
   1. Login to LegSim,
   2. Click on “Submit Legislation” under My Office
   3. Enter the title of your bill into the “Legislative Title” box.
   4. Select “Bill” from the “Legislative Type” dropdown menu
   5. Copy the text of your bill into the template provided. **Put the text of the bill into the “Text of the Bill” section, and the “Findings and Purposes” into the “Supporting Text” section.**
   6. When you are ready, click the “Submit Legislation” button. The website will automatically assign a number to the bill.
7. **Grading:** The text of the bill is worth 50 points, and the “findings and purposes” is worth 25 points.
   1. For the text of the bill, you will be graded on
      1. Completeness—you include the minimum number of sections, and you cover all of the content requirements listed above.
      2. The logic of your bill—does it make sense? Do the sections fit together? Are there any major flaws?
      3. Grammar and mechanics—remember, the smallest of errors could completely change the intent of the bill!
   2. For the “findings and purposes”, you will be graded on
      1. Completeness—you include all of the parts, including the works cited.
      2. Analysis—your justification for the bill is solid.
      3. Grammar and mechanics.
      4. A properly formatted works cited list.

Note: There is no length requirement for the text of the bill. However, it must be complete (see the section on grading above) in order to receive a good grade.

**PLEASE ALSO SUBMIT YOUR BILL TO TURNITIN.COM. Thanks!**

*Also during the simulation…*

\_\_\_\_\_ Create more legislation. Create a caucus if you want. Be active in the process!

*Final Project due December 14th:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Complete the Final Project.

LegSim Final Project (115 points)

The project will be about **3.5 pages, double-spaced total (plus a works cited list which does not count toward the length of the paper), with Part I 2.5 about pages total and part II about 1 page total (see the length requirements for each section below). Use Times New Roman font (12 point) with 1 inch margins.**

Part I:

1. Begin by discussing the factors that have the greatest impact on whether congressional incumbents in general get reelected. To what extent does an incumbent need to be concerned about her actions or the actions of the legislature when running for reelection? Which types of actions are most likely to matter to voters? Which voters should an incumbent be most concerned about? **(15 points—15 lines)**

*All parts should be answered fully. Use at least two sources in this section (mention explicitly where the sources are from). Include a significant amount of analysis.*

1. In light of these facts, what legislative accomplishments stand out as the things you should highlight **ABOUT YOU** in your forthcoming reelection campaign? **(25 points—18 lines)**

*Use specific examples from the simulation, and explain why these accomplishments should be highlighted. Make sure to refer to your constituency, your party, your image, and your conscience when answering this question. Use at least two sources in this section (mention explicitly in your text where the sources are from).*

1. What legislative actions stand out as key areas of vulnerability **FOR YOU**? Which do you anticipate are most likely to provide valuable ammunition for a political challenger? **(25 points—18 lines)**

*Use specific examples from the simulation, and explain why these actions are vulnerabilities. Make sure to refer to your constituency, your party, your image, and your conscience when answering this question. Use at least two sources in this section (mention explicitly in your text where the sources are from).*

1. Develop a single campaign theme based on one of **YOUR** most notable accomplishments. Describe this theme in words and create a campaign advertisement. **(25 points—15 lines plus the ad)**

*This should take the form of a campaign poster, radio spot, or television advertisement. If you are doing a radio or television ad, it should be about 30 seconds long. Don’t forget to approve the message. ☺ Include a short paragraph explaining your decisions about content and delivery and why these decisions make the ad effective. You can turn this part of the project in on a flash drive. (No sources necessary for this part)*

Part II:

1. What legislative actions or statements by **your assigned classmate** stand out as key areas of vulnerability? By this we mean actions that will raise questions about her/his representativeness or competence within the constituency. **(15 points—15 lines)**

*Use specific examples from the simulation, and explain why these actions are vulnerabilities. Make sure to refer to their constituency, their party, and their image. Use at least three sources in this section (mention explicitly where the sources are from).*

1. Develop a campaign theme around **your classmate’s** single greatest vulnerability. **(10 points—10 lines)**

*You do NOT need to create an advertisement for this section, but you can if you want (include a 5-line paragraph explaining your content and delivery). Otherwise, write 10 lines describing the campaign theme and why you believe it would be effective.*

Other requirements:

* Include a works cited page. APA or MLA is fine. You will lose points if you do not include this.
* Make sure that grammar, mechanics, and organization are proper.
* Use in-text citations or endnotes (whichever you prefer) to cite your sources in your paragraphs.
* Turn it in on Turnitin.com.
* Let me know if you need help!