***Current Issues***

***Mr. Bambenek***

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***Lap 3: US Politics***

**Essential Question:**

What is wrong with the US government? Who can fix it and how?

**Late Assignments from Lap 2**

Are all due by the last class day on Lap 3.

Failure to turn in late or missing work by the last class day on Lap 3 will result in a zero for that particular assignment – no exceptions.

***Overview***

In this LAP, students will examine three political races: Presidential, Gubernatorial and US Senate. Through this process, students will better understand the political platforms of the Republican and Democratic parties. Students will also research the various challenges our government, and many other democracies, face. They will investigate the problem of campaign finance, gerrymandering, voter identification laws and “Super Tuesday.”

***Rationale***

In a democracy like the United States, all citizens have an equal right to participate in politics, and many do so by voting in elections. It is important for voters to be informed about the issues and candidates that affect their everyday lives. Learning about government provides a foundation for making informed choices in elections. The study of US government is important because it helps people to understand how government works, and it provides people with knowledge about how to influence government as a citizen. Further, government instruction can provide students with opportunities to consider local and national issues and learn about what citizens can do to create change where problems exist. For example, a large portion of the civil rights movement involved the use of the courts rather than a revolution to strike down laws pertaining to the segregation of schools. A study in US politics, then, helps people to understand and to influence the legal context in which they find themselves.

***Learning Goals:***

1. Examine the 2016 Presidential candidates & identify their platforms.
2. Explain how campaign finance, gerrymandering and voter ID laws can influence an election.
3. Examine the MO Gubernatorial election & identify the platforms of the candidates.
4. Examine the US Senate candidates from MO. Identify their platforms.

***Lap 1 Summative Assessment***

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| **Essential Question:****What is wrong with the US government? Who can fix it and how?**  |
| Your summative assessment for this Lap will be a multiple choice, short answer and reading comprehension style test. Your test will be around 50 questions. I would encourage you to review the Learning Goals listed above. | **F - Day****11/11** |

***Enrichment***

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| **The Two-Party System** |
| Examine the role of the 2 party system (Democrats & Republicans). Briefly point out the history of the system. Closely examine the positives and negatives of such a system. Finally, make a claim if this system works best for American and why/why not.(1-2 pgs) No bibliography needed. | **Due:****E – Day** **11/10** |

***Calendar of Events***

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| **Day 1** |
| 1. **Due at class time** – Intro reading from website.
2. **What we are doing today** – Go over LAP. Share responses from Stanford Letter assignment. Review reading on Gerrymandering.
3. **Assignment for next time** –none
 | **H – Day****10/12** |
| **Day 2** |
| 1. **Due at class time** – none
2. **What we are doing today** – How to rig an election? Gerrymandering.
3. **Assignments for next time** – On my weebly, read and complete the requirements as listed on “Citizens United” reading. View the Jon Oliver video: Congressional Fundraising. Answer the questions on the weebly.
 | **K – Day****10/14** |
| **Day 3** |
| 1. **Due at class time** – reading & video analysis
2. **What we are doing today** – How to rig an election? Campaign Finance.
3. **Assignment for next time** – On my weebly, read & complete the requirements as listed on “Voter ID.” View the Jon Oliver video: Voting. Answer the questions from the weebly.
 | **A – Day** **10/17** |
| **Day 4** |
| 1. **Due at class time** – reading & video analysis
2. **What we are doing today** – Class debate on Voter ID laws (graded).
3. **Assignment for next time** – On my weebly, view the following videos and answer the corresponding questions: Foreign Policy Discussion, Debate #1, Debate #2.
 | **C – Day** **10/19****(½ DAY)** |
| **Day 5** |
| 1. **Due at class time** – Questions from videos
2. **What we are doing today** – Quiz. Examine the foreign policies of 2016 Presidential candidates.
3. **Assignment for next time** – none
 | **H – Day** **10/31****(short)** |
| **Day 6** |
| 1. **Due at class time** –none
2. **What we are doing today** – Compare the Presidential candidates.
3. **Assignment for next time** – On my weebly, read the background information about the MO Gubernatorial race & US Senate race for Missouri. Answer the corresponding questions.
 | **K – Day** **11/2** |
| **Day 7** |
| 1. **Due at class time** – Background info & questions.
2. **What we are doing today** – Examine the MO Gubernatorial race & US Senate race.
3. **Assignment for next time** – none
 | **A – Day** **11/3** |

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| **Day 8** |
| 1. **Due at class time** – none

**2. What we are doing today** – Vote for US President, Missouri Governor and US Senate. Discuss early election results.**3. Assignment for next time** – Watch the election results on TV, radio, twitter, etc. Record your thoughts in 1 pg. | **C – Day** **11/8** |

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| **Day 9** |
| 1. **Due at class time** – Thoughts on election results

**2. What we are doing today** – Discuss 2016 election results. Review.**3. Assignment for next time** – Prepare for Summative | **E – Day** **11/10** |

**Up Next…** Education