**A.P. United States Government and Politics**

**Mock Election Project 2022-2023**

The Mock Election Project is a practical experience in electoral politics. Each U.H.S. A.P. Government class will become a political party for the purpose of this project. Each party shall elect five leaders: 1) Party Chair; 2) Presidential Candidate; 3) Vice Presidential Candidate; 4) Foreign Policy Chair, and 5) Domestic Policy Chair. The party leaders will organize the party and its campaign, develop the platform and speak during the debates. The party leaders will each chair a platform committee which will be comprised of rank-and-file members of the party. Rank-and-file members will write a research/position paper on a selected topic. Party leaders will then edit the research/position papers into a coherent party platform.

I Job Descriptions

**Note #1: Party leaders must be students who are on track to graduate. Party leaders may not have a “D” or an “F” for a quarter or semester grade during the Senior year.**

**Note #2: Because UHS and TUSD record the Senior Debate for promotional purposes, all party leaders must have a signed release/consent form on record with UHS Administration.**

**Note #3: Because there are 6 Gov periods this year, the on-stage debaters will be just the Presidential Candidate and the Foreign/Domestic Policy Chairs.**

A **Party Chair**

The Party Chair is in overall command of the party campaign. This person should be well organized and have the respect of the members of the class. The Chair must develop an agenda for and preside over in-class meetings of the party. The Chair must make certain that each rank-and-file member has a research paper topic as soon as possible, must coordinate the platform committees, must coordinate the various platform positions, and meet all deadlines set for the project. The Chair will evaluate the effort and participation of the rank and file. The Chair will assist in giving a preliminary score to each policy paper.

B **Presidential Candidate**

The Presidential Candidate is the chief spokesperson for the party. This person should be articulate and have the ability to get votes. The Presidential Candidate must be the most visible member of the party during the campaign and the lead speaker during the debates. The Presidential Candidate will chair one of the platform writing committees and will assist the Party Chair in the editing of position papers into a cohesive party platform. The President will assist in giving a preliminary score to each policy paper.

C **Vice Presidential Candidate**

The Vice Presidential Candidate’s job description is similar to the Presidential Candidate’s except that the V.P. will be the secondary spokesperson for the party.

The Vice President will assist in giving a preliminary score to each policy paper.

D **Foreign Policy Chair**

The Foreign Policy Chair will be in charge of the development of the Foreign Policy portion of the party platform. The F.P. Chair must make sure that all rank-and-file members in the Foreign Policy Committee have appropriate research/position paper topics and must coordinate the theses to insure a consistent party platform. The F.P. Chair will be a speaker during the foreign policy portion of the debates. The F.P. Chair will assist in giving a preliminary score to each policy paper.

E **Domestic Policy Chair**

The Domestic Policy Chair’s job description is similar to the Foreign Policy Chair’s except for a focus on domestic policy issues. The D.P. Chair will be a speaker during the domestic policy portion of the debates. The D.P. Chair will assist in giving a preliminary score to each policy paper.

II Rank-and-File Members

Those persons not selected as one of the five party leaders will be rank-and-file party members. Rank-and-file members must join a platform writing committee and select a research/position paper topic as soon as possible. The thesis of the paper should be consistent with the party platform. The Party Chair will determine when the research/position papers will be due. The paper will include appropriate references, including footnotes/endnotes, and an annotated bibliography. Aside from the research and writing of the paper, rank-and-file members will assist with work pertaining to the campaign.

III Grading Procedure (200 Points)

A Party Leaders will be graded on the following criteria:

1 Success of the party in the mock election;

2 Performance of the speakers during the debates;

3 Effective use of allotted class time;

1. Quality of the party platform (graded by teachers);
2. Organizational efforts and leadership (graded by rank and file)

B Rank-and-File Members will be graded on the following criteria:

1 Success of the party in the mock elections;

2 Participation in party meetings and in the campaign (graded by Chairs and by teacher);

3 Quality of the research/position paper (scored by Chairs/scores reviewed and grades finalized by teachers). Quality also includes the importance of the topic to national politics in 2022-2023.

**NO LATE PAPERS OR PLATFORMS ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT!!!**

IV Conclusion: The Mock Election project is intended to provide students with “hands-on”

experience in campaigning. Since this is an A.P. U.S. Government and Politics course,

current national issues will be the focus. While the project lends itself to humorous and

witty campaigning, grades will be determined primarily by the quality of the academic

research and the articulation of a fully developed party platform. We expect the

platforms and debate to focus on national issues that are currently defining public debate.

**Possible Debate Topics—General Topics for Position Papers (List not exhaustive)**

**Domestic Issues**

* 1. Economy / budget deficits
  2. Civil Liberties / Patriot Act
  3. Education / NCLB / Public Sector Unionism
  4. Health care / Medicare / Social Security
  5. Tort reform
  6. American job loss / private sector unionism
  7. Abortion / Right to Privacy
  8. Energy policy / Alternative fuels
  9. Corporations / Court rulings on Corporate activities
  10. Crime / Death penalty
  11. LGBTQ+ Rights
  12. Environment

**Foreign Issues (Pertaining to US Foreign Policy)**

* 1. Iraq / Afghanistan / Iran
  2. India / Pakistan
  3. China / Russia
  4. Middle East / Israel / Palestine
  5. Terrorism
  6. North Korea
  7. World trade issues / NAFTA / Multi-National Corporations
  8. Africa / AIDS
  9. Latin America / Cuba / Venezuela / Mexico
  10. Global warming / Kyoto treaty / International Environmentalism
  11. Illegal immigration / U.S. borders / Drug Trafficking
  12. United Nations
  13. Relations with EU / NATO

**Part of your platform responsibility is to create a FEDERAL BUDGET. Don’t get caught without one at the debate!**

**Campaigning Rules**

1. **No campaign materials in hallways –except in specifically designated areas of the lower level.**
2. **Do not use duct tape or packing tape to put up campaign materials. Duct and packing tape damage the hallway walls and the paint. Do not use glitter.**
3. **Campaign materials are restricted to UHS classrooms with teacher permission.**
4. **No campaign materials shall be displayed prior to returning from Winter Break in January.**
5. **This is a public school. Keep the campaign clean. Slogans and posters with foul language or containing references to alcohol, drugs, gambling, and sex are prohibited.**

**General Rules**

1. **Each party will prepare 7 foreign policy and 7 domestic policy questions for the random topic-prepared questions rounds. These questions are due Tuesday, January 17. The moderator will ask random topic-prepared questions during the debate.**
2. **Each party will prepare a 3-5 minute campaign video. The video is due on Friday, January 20 for a preview in class. The videos will be shown to the Juniors during the English class town halls on Friday, January 27.**
3. **Parties will set up their respective props in the auditorium between 3 P.M. and 6 P.M. on Tuesday, January 31.**
4. **Each party will provide 5 ushers to assist with seating at the debate on February 1.**
5. **No more than 3 speakers per party on stage during each round of the debate.**
6. **Parties will use the remainder of 4th period and 2nd Lunch to clean up the auditorium after the debate.**
7. **Polling will take place on Thursday, February 2 in Room LL-08. UHS Juniors are eligible voters. Polls will be open from 7:30 to 8:00 A.M., during second lunch, and after school, until 3:45 P.M. Each party may have one poll watcher in LL-03 while the polls are open.**
8. **Votes will be counted at 3:45 P.M. on Thursday, February 2 in Room LL-08.**
9. **Parties must remove all campaign materials from classrooms and hallways by the end of school on Friday, February 3.**
10. **Campaigns will begin on Monday, January 4. Campaign materials will be confined to the designated display areas in the Lower Level and to UHS classrooms with teacher permission. No use of duct tape on floor or walls.**