

The American Government Experience

Questions and Answers

Q: What will the full day sessions be like?

A: Full day sessions will cover a wide variety of topics in our political system. Generally, during the morning hours, the session will look much like a classroom academic environment. Book reading assignments will be discussed, and lecture teaching will occur. Later in the morning and early afternoon, students will typically see video footage of some significant events relating to the subject covered that day, and the class will discuss those significant events. The afternoon hours will be dedicated to more practical exercises in both examining the current election cycle, and other real interactions with our political system. Students should make attendance at the sessions from beginning to end a priority in their schedules.

Q: How much work will I be required to do outside of the classroom?

A: Generally, students should plan to be more engaged in the ongoing election cycle in order to add most to the discussions during class. This engagement should certainly include regular reading of print and online news articles and opinion editorials from political thinkers. Regular reading of political websites, such as realclearpolitics.com and politico.com will also give students a view into the conventional wisdom on the progress and status of the candidates and issues. Also, students should certainly arrange to watch any debates that occur in both parties, and view news analysis of those debates. Students should be able to discuss these major events during class. The class will be invited to attend or watch on television certain events that may occur during this election cycle. These should not be too frequent.

Secondly, students will be given a reading assignment to complete between classes. The reading assignment will be from one or more of the books provided by Campaign For America, and will provide a perspective on the upcoming class' subject matter. While written book reports will generally not be required, students should be able to answer broad, general questions about their assignment, such as: "What were the assignment's major themes?, What, in the assignment, did you particularly agree or disagree?," etc. Some class time will be given to group discussion of reading assignments. In some cases, students will be given different reading assignments, in order to gain different perspectives of the issue or facet of government being discussed that day. Students will also be required to write a short opinion editorial for each class.

Finally, students will have the opportunity to pursue an Honors Project. Should students pursue an Honors Project, they will be required to devote the time necessary to complete the project according to the project map agreed upon by the student and the instructor.

Q: What books or supplies will I need to buy?

A: If accepted into the program, all required books and supplies will be furnished by Campaign For America. Any supplemental books or materials that students wish to purchase will be their responsibility.

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Q: What will be involved in the Washington, DC trip? How much will it cost?

A: Students will travel to Washington, DC with their instructor, and as many chaperones as necessary. The schedule will be as follows:

Thursday - Drive to Washington, DC. Visit U.S. Capitol, including the gallery of U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, and Senate Office Buildings.

Questions and Answers (cont.)

Friday* – White House Visit, Supreme Court Visit, and the Library of Congress.

Saturday - Visit Washington, DC Monuments and Arlington National Cemetery.

Sunday - Drive from Washington, DC to Charlotte.

*Depending upon availability and schedule, we will attempt to attend a speaker event or policy forum through one of the political think tanks located in Washington, D.C.

The students will need to pay \$200 for their Washington, DC trip. That fee will cover all necessary expenses, including food, hotel room, and transportation. Students should plan to bring additional money for souvenirs, etc.

Q: Who is eligible to participate in the American Government Experience? How do I know if I should participate, or if I am qualified?

A: Any rising High School Freshmen or older is eligible to participate in the American Government Experience. Students are encouraged to participate in the experience if they have a strong interest in American Government and Politics, and are willing and able to put for the commitment necessary to complete the requirements of the Experience. Students should be excellent readers, and should feel comfortable expressing themselves both orally and in writing

Q: How often is the American Government Experience held?

A: The American Government Experience will be offered every other year, in coordination with national elections.