**Chapter Three - Writing & Project Assignments**

**Writing**

1. Compare and contrast a professional and citizen legislature. What are the merits and disadvantages of both systems? Which system would be best for Texas and why?

CT, COMM

1. Pick one of the theories of representation (politico, delegate, and trustee). Identify your state representatives and research their voting behavior and the bills that they have sponsored and co-sponsored. Based on your research, which of the theories best describes your representative’s legislative style. Provide examples to support your conclusion. You may wish to use the following site: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us>

CT, COMM, SR

1. Of the three theories of representation (politico, delegate, and trustee), which theory do you feel is best for Texas? Which theory most conforms to the political culture of Texas described in Chapter One?

CT, COMM, SR

**Projects**

1. Organize your class into groups and select a social or economic policy that your students are particularly passionate about (e.g. immigration, tuition prices, public education funding, same-sex marriage). Each group will be operating as a campaign team attempting to secure the nomination of the party.

Ask students to craft a position and short speech representing their stance on the selected issue. Give them an appropriate amount of time to present their case to the entire class (five to ten minutes is recommended). Once the students have presented their cases the game begins.

Each member of the winning campaign’s group earns ten points of extra credit. One (and only one member) of each campaign can agree to give away their points, in two point chunks to secure the votes of members of other groups. These point trade agreements must be written down on paper. If a group wins, the member who sacrificed his/her points earns no extra credit. The members of other groups who signed agreements to vote for the winning group get the two points for their votes.

Once the votes are tallied, ask the students to reflect on the following questions:

* How many of you voted based on the political stance of the groups?
* How influential was the potential for personal benefit to your vote?
* Those of you who chose to sacrifice your points to promote your group, can you explain to the class your logic?

CT, COMM, PR, SR

1. Present the content or ask students to read and review the following report from American University on the under representation of women in elected office: <https://www.american.edu/spa/wpi/upload/2012-Men-Rule-Report-web.pdf>

Once they have reviewed the major arguments of the researchers ask them to break into gender balanced groups (to the extent possible). They should then evaluate which of the points made by the researchers they believe are most applicable to Texas.

Finally create and present a plan to encourage the development of female candidates and gender-balanced representation in Texas.

CT, COMM, PR, SR