**Chapter 12: Politics and Economics:**

**Penetrating Power and Privilege**

**Web Exercises**

1. Do a web search on the “G8.” You may also want to visit the [G8 Information Center at the University of Toronto](http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/). Write a description of what the G8 is and what was on its agenda at its most recent meeting, making sure to cite your sources. Some possible places to search include:

[Google](http://www.google.com)

[The Internet Public Library](http://www.ipl.org/)

[Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

[Google Scholar](http://scholar.google.com/)

Your college online library database

1. Visit [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com) and watch several campaign advertisements for candidates in the 2012 election. Make sure these candidates are running for the same position. Also, make sure these are official campaign ads and not parodies or special-interest-group ads. Assess the ads and then write a two- to three-paragraph response describing whether you believe these ads would be helpful at informing an undecided voter on how they should vote in the election.
2. Visit the websites for the two mainstream political parties in the United States. Visit the [Republican Party](http://www.gop.com/?source=continue-text) and the [Democratic Party](http://www.democrats.org/). Select a social issue and research both parties’ positions on the issue. Write a 1-page brief on how the parties differ, making sure to include your thoughts on how this issue shaped recent national elections.
3. Visit the website of a nonmajor, nonmainstream political party in the United States. Then select one of the two mainstream political parties in the United States, either the [Republicans](http://www.gop.com) or the [Democrats](http://www.democrats.org/). When evaluating each party, make sure to look at their stances on similar issues and the overall mission of the organization. Then compare and contrast these political organizations.
4. Find a nation that is not democratically governed. Search for its political practices online to discover how its leaders are appointed, how its people participate in political decisions, and how its laws are made and carried out. Do a similar search for a democratically governed nation other than the United States and for the United States. Compare and contrast what you find across these three nations.
5. Visit the website for the [Center for American Women and Politics](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/). Go to “Women in Elective Office” and find your state. Compare your state to others in the United States. What state appears to have the largest percentage of women in elected office? Do the numbers surprise you? Why or why not?
6. Visit the website for the National Voter Outreach, here: http://ballotpedia.org/National\_Voter\_Outreach. What are some of the services this organization provides? What are the main goals of this organization? Why, in your opinion, do many people choose not to vote? Can organizations like this one help decrease voter apathy?