

AP GOV /2012 ELECTION PREDICTION PROJECT/ MR. LIPMAN

Working alone or in a group of no more than three persons you will research the 2012 Presidential and Senate elections and predict the outcome of each. The group that has the closest prediction will be the “winning group” and will receive extra credit on the project. (Predictions will be based on Presidential results but senate races will be used as a tie-breaker.) Your grade will be based on how well you document and validate your predictions.

1. **Poster Board Map of the United States**

- Create and color a map of the US to indicate which state’s electoral votes will go to the Democrats (Blue) and which state’s electoral votes will go to the Republicans (Red)
- Indicate how many electoral votes there are in each state (and DC)
- At the bottom of your map indicate how many electoral votes each candidate will get
- At the bottom of your map indicate the percentage of the popular vote you believe each candidate will get

*Provide support for these predictions (described below)

2. **Election Portfolio** - Place the following in a portfolio organized like this:

• **1st Part - Presidential Election**

- Create a chart with 5 key issues and give each candidate’s stance on those issues
- Pick 5 of the “swing” states and provide at least 2 pieces of support for your choices
- Indicate which candidate will win in each swing state and why

• **2nd Part – Senate Races**

- Make a prediction- how many Democrats will be in the Senate overall? How many Republicans?
- Identify the **FIVE** most competitive races and provide support for the ones you identified

For each race identify the following:

1. State
 2. Name of incumbent and challenger and their party affiliation
 3. Identify and describe 3 major issues supported by incumbent.
 4. Identify and describe 3 major issues supported by challenger.
 5. What issues are being emphasized by which candidate?
- Predict the outcome of each race and provide support for each.
Support includes any of the following (you should have a variety):
 - **Newspaper/Magazine Articles** - What does the article tell you about the chances of the incumbent/challenger? Download and print the first page of the article, place the article immediately behind the summary.
 - **Poll Results** – Identify the poll and write a brief analysis.
 - **Web Site** – This can include graphics or an article. Write a brief summary of your findings, and place the Web Site printout behind your summary.

See the back of this page for suggested web sites to use, but feel free to find and use others.

Suggested Sources

<http://www.pollingreport.com>

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/election_2012

<http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball>

<http://www.c-span.org/Campaign2012/>

<http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2012/http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/campaigns>

<http://www.npr.org/sections/elections/>

<http://www.ontheissues.org/default.htm>

<http://www.270towin.com/>

<http://www.nytimes.com> (political page has great maps and diagrams for all key races)