

PIG

Mr. Thoman

Project #1: The Republican Primaries of 2011-2012

Set up: The class will be broken down into five to six groups. Each group will take on one of the Republican Presidential candidates.

- Michele Bachman
- Newt Gingrich
- Ron Paul
- Rick Perry
- Mitt Romney
- Rick Santorum

While all four members of each group work on research, the breakdown within each group will be as follows:

- Powerpoint creator:
- Presenter
- Debater
- Consultant to debater

Format:

Day 1: The presenters will introduce the candidates with Powerpoint presentations.

These presentations will include the following pieces of information:

- Candidate biography: childhood, education, family, professional background
- Achievement: Whether in politics or the business world, each of these candidates has an impressive resume, both in and out of the political world.
- What are the key ways in which this candidate likes to distinguish him / herself from the other candidates
- Where does the candidate stand on key issues?

Day 2: The debaters take the floor and become the candidates themselves. With a focus on issues, the debaters are going to get a good handle on where their candidate stands on key issues. It is also important that each candidate does some research on key opponents, and is able to go on attack mode. The consultants are not to speak up in the debate, but are there to advise their candidate and offer new information whenever possible.

Assessment:

- The powerpoint presentations are at minimum 10 slides long. Each slide must contain some kind of relevant image or chart. There must be at least three lines of text, but never should a slide be overly busy with small font that is unreadable to most students.

- There is to be absolutely NO reading straight from the slides. It should be apparent that the powerpoint creator and presenter have gone over the presentation before-hand.
- The powerpoint MUST be ready the day it is due. There is to be no fussing around at the last minute. The presentation should be placed on a usb drive, and given to Mr. Thoman at the start of the period. Please do not try to play the program from Google or expect that that show can be downloaded during class time.
- The debater is able to get into the skin of the candidate and really appear to have a firm grasp of the their various stands on issues. Equally important, the debater is able to bring up deficiencies with the other candidates. (Indeed ALL of the candidates have strong anti-Obama feelings).
- The consultant is able to provide effective support to the debater, and is able to bring new information to the table. It is important the debater and consultant work together as a team.
- There is a real effort to bring substantive and well-thought out arguments to the floor. There is also a real effort to bring energy, feeling, and even a little humor to the debate. Don't be afraid to impersonate and take on the persona of the candidate! Anyone in the class have a Texas twang?

Resources:

Each candidate has a web site up with some basic information. Such sites are good launching pads. In addition, use Google to look up negative information on the other candidates. There are already a handful of sites that provide a good forum on the upcoming primaries. To learn more about the primaries and useful information on the candidates, try out these sites.

<http://2012.presidential-candidates.org/>

<http://www.2012presidentialelectionnews.com/>