

# GETTING INVOLVED or PUBLIC MEETINGS Project

## *United States Government-Fall 2015*

### Assignment:

- You are required to complete either the Getting Involved Project or attend a public meeting in Bryan or College Station. Attached are requirements for each option.
- You can attend more than one meeting for extra credit.

### Due Dates:

- This project is for the 3<sup>rd</sup> six weeks, due **December 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- You may complete it in early for 10 bonus points (applied during the 3<sup>rd</sup> six weeks), due by **October 1<sup>st</sup>**. For 5 bonus points, you can turn it in the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> six weeks on **November 5<sup>th</sup>**.
- Must be turned in by **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Do not procrastinate on this because you need government credit to graduate and it is not possible to pass the six weeks with a zero for a major grade
- It is highly encouraged that you complete this project early!!!

### Requirements:

- Reports must be turned in no later than **1 week** after completing the getting involved activity or attending the public meeting (if meeting is Tuesday, your paper is due following Tuesday).
- Reports are to be typed, double spaced, and at least a page and a half 12 point font. Attach the meeting agenda to your report if you attend a public meeting. If you complete the getting involved project have the person you contacted sign a piece of paper with the amount of time you were there. You do not need to have anyone sign your agenda. Government teachers will have the sign in sheet faxed to us, so just sign in (city council)
- Your paper should have a MLA heading with your name, class period, and the date. Your heading cannot take up ½ a page.
- See specific report requirements on the following pages.

**GOAL:** TO BECOME EDUCATED ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES AND ABOUT THE POLICY-MAKING PROCESS IN THE CITIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF COLLEGE STATION AND BRYAN.



## OPTION 1: PUBLIC MEETINGS PROJECT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FALL 2015

**ATTEND** ONE CITY COUNCIL OR ONE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING FOR A MINIMUM OF 90 MINUTES & **WRITE A REPORT** ON EACH THAT INCLUDES: 1) THE NAME AND DATE OF THE MEETING YOU ATTENDED; 2) A STATEMENT THAT YOU WERE IN PHYSICAL ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING; 3) A DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUES THAT WERE DISCUSSED; 4) THE POSITIONS OF THE MEETING'S PARTICIPANTS; AND 5) YOUR REFLECTIONS CONCERNING THE ISSUES AND POSITIONS OF PARTICIPATING CITIZENS. YOU MAY ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE OTHER BODIES FOR MAJOR EXTRA CREDIT.

**COLLEGE STATION CITY COUNCIL** MEETS THE 2<sup>ND</sup> THURSDAYS AND 4<sup>TH</sup> MONDAYS OF EACH MONTH, AT 7 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE CITY HALL AT 1101 S. TEXAS AVENUE, (NEXT TO CHILI'S) IN COLLEGE STATION. CALL 764-3541 A DAY AHEAD TO CONFIRM THE DATE, TIME, & PLACE. **AUGUST 27, SEPTEMBER 10, SEPTEMBER 21, OCTOBER 8, OCTOBER 22, NOVEMBER 12, NOVEMBER 23.**

**COLLEGE STATION PLANNING & ZONING** MEETS THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY OF THE MONTH City Hall Council Chambers 1101 Texas Ave College Station, Texas 77840. CALL 764-3570 DAY AHEAD TO CONFIRM THE DATE, TIME, & PLACE. **SEPTEMBER 3, SEPTEMBER 17, OCTOBER 1, OCTOBER 15, NOVEMBER 5, NOVEMBER 19**

**COLLEGE STATION SCHOOL BOARD** MEETS THE 3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7 P.M., AT THE CSISD BOARD ROOM ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE AMCHS. CALL 764-5400 DAY AHEAD TO CONFIRM THE DATE, TIME, & PLACE. **SEPTEMBER 15, OCTOBER 20, NOVEMBER 17**

**LIBRARY EXPANSION MEETING** WILL MEET 6:30 P.M. AT LARRY J. RINGER LIBRARY 1818 HARVEY MITCHELL PKWY S. COLLEGE STATION, TX 77845. CALL 764-3416 DAY AHEAD TO CONFIRM THE DATE, TIME, & PLACE. **SEPT. 2**

**BRYAN CITY COUNCIL** MEETS THE 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAYS OF EACH MONTH AT 6:00P.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AT 300 N. TEXAS AVENUE, AT 29<sup>TH</sup> STREET, IN BRYAN. CALL 209-5002 A DAY AHEAD TO CONFIRM THE MEETING DATE, TIME, & PLACE. **SEPTEMBER 8, SEPTEMBER 22, OCTOBER 13, OCTOBER 27, NOVEMBER 10, NOVEMBER 24**

**BRYAN PLANNING & ZONING** IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AT 300 N. TEXAS AVENUE, AT 29<sup>TH</sup> STREET, IN BRYAN. CALL 209-5030 A DAY AHEAD TO CONFIRM THE MEETING DATE, TIME, & PLACE. **SEPTEMBER 3, SEPTEMBER 17, OCTOBER 1, OCTOBER 15, NOVEMBER 5, NOVEMBER 19**

**BRYAN ISD SCHOOL BOARD** MEETS THE 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING BOARD ROOM, AT 101 N. TEXAS AVENUE, AT W.J. BRYAN, BRYAN. CALL 209-1000 TO CONFIRM THE MEETING DATE, TIME, & PLACE. **SEPTEMBER 21, OCTOBER 19, NOVEMBER 16**

ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES EARLY. YOU ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN AT THE MEETING FOR AT LEAST 90 MINUTES TO RECEIVE CREDIT. REMEMBER TO BRING A WRITING UTENSIL & PAPER TO TAKE NOTES WITH. REPORTS ARE DUE WITHIN **1 WEEK OF THE MEETING!** **NOTE: DATES MIGHT BE CHANGED FROM THE ABOVE! FOR ALL MEETINGS, FIRST CALL THE CITY OR SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE THE DAY BEFORE TO CONFIRM THE DATE, PLACE, AND TIME!!**

## OPTION TWO: GETTING INVOLVED

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**WHAT is GETTING INVOLVED?** Volunteering a minimum of two hours of your time working with a campaign, political party or an organization on a civil rights/liberties, environmental, peace, social justice, or other public policy issue.

**WHAT'S THE OBJECTIVE?** To participate in your own governance and to learn about candidates, campaigns, elections, and issues by becoming **politically active!**

**WHEN DO I WORK?** You are encouraged to begin immediately!

You must complete either the Getting Involved project or the Public Meeting project. **You are encouraged to begin investigating the Getting Involved opportunities right away, since opportunities are limited!**

### HOW DO I BEGIN?

- 1) **Study** the issues and qualifications, philosophies and positions of the candidates, parties and organizations by reading the newspaper or Internet web pages and/or by attending or viewing candidate forums and debates, speeches, or organizational meetings or events.
- 2) **Decide** which candidate, political party and/or organization best represent(s) your views and concerns.
- 3) **Contact** the appropriate candidate, campaign or organization to find out how and when you can participate.
- 4) **Within two days** of completing your political work, **write a report** that includes:
  - A. The **name** of the candidate or organization for whom you volunteered;
  - B. The **date(s)** that you were active;
  - C. The **name** of the person(s) whom you contacted and who directed your efforts;
  - D. The **reasons** why you chose your candidate(s) or issue;
  - E. A **detailed description** of the activities in which you participated (attach samples);
  - F. Your **reactions and feelings** about your political experience.

**REMEMBER** that you are required to complete a Getting Involved project or a Public Meeting project!

## GETTING INVOLVED CONT.

Anti-death penalty: **Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty**—<http://tcadp.org/> Contact [collegestation@tcadp.org](mailto:collegestation@tcadp.org) or Rich Woodward at [r-woodward@tcadp-bv.org](mailto:r-woodward@tcadp-bv.org)

Civil Liberties: **National Rifle Association**—[www.nrila.org/](http://www.nrila.org/) Dave Burdett 695-2807. Promotes 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights and organizes send-offs and welcomes for troops.

Human Rights: **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People** [www.texasnaacp.org](http://www.texasnaacp.org) Activities include voter registration and the Jury Project. Contact Wanda J. Watson at 845-7743 or 575-2251 and at [wwatson@medicine.tamhsc.edu](mailto:wwatson@medicine.tamhsc.edu)

Human Rights: **League of United Latin American Citizens**. Seeks to advance economic conditions, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights. [www.lulac.org/](http://www.lulac.org/) Miguel 'Mike' Flores at 739-9707; [mikemigelflores@yahoo.com](mailto:mikemigelflores@yahoo.com)

Right to Life/Anti-abortion: **Brazos Valley Coalition for Life**—[www.coalitionforlife.com](http://www.coalitionforlife.com); [info@coalitionforlife.com](mailto:info@coalitionforlife.com); 3601 E. 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 8; Bryan; 846-BVCL. **40 Days for Life**

Voter Education: **League of Women Voters of the Brazos Valley** — Hosts candidate forums and provides position papers on public policy issues. Distributes Voter Guides and hosts new citizenship ceremonies. Contact Ms. Sharon Boston at 693-6733/[shrn\\_boston@yahoo.com](mailto:shrn_boston@yahoo.com)

**BCS Tea Party:** Bill Bingham; [bcsteapartyvp@gmail.com](mailto:bcsteapartyvp@gmail.com); [www.bcsteaparty.com](http://www.bcsteaparty.com)

<b>Lobbying:</b>	Kyle Kacal, state representative district #12	3000 Briarcrest Dr., Suite 203, 979-774-7276
	John Raney, state representative district #14	4103 S Texas Av., Suite 103, 979-260-5040
	Bill Flores, U.S representative, CD #17	2800 S. Texas Ave., Bryan 979-703-4037
	Charles Schwertner, state senate district #5	3000 Briarcrest Dr., Suite 202 979-463-0105

\*\*No more than two students per group to personally lobby. Each group member must contribute to the preparation and presentation in a personal meeting with Kacal, Schwertner, Raney, Flores, or their staff\*\*

**Letter-to-the-Editor**—Write and **have published** a letter- to- the- editor of either the *Eagle* or *Houston Chronicle* that addresses a contemporary public policy topic of concern to you. See OP/ED page for guidelines.

**Letter to Congress**- Write and have a **response** to a US congressman or senator. Write a letter over an issue that concerns you, provide me with a copy, and mail (no email) to Congress. You will need to turn in the response to me. You would need to complete this early to ensure you receive a response.