

**PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT
HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS
DUE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2008**

I. Issues Research

Follow the steps to complete the issue boxes below.

- 1) Your first homework assignment is to decide which three issues are most important to you in the upcoming elections. To help in this decision, go to the website <http://www.publicagenda.org>. Under the heading "Issue Guides," there is a drop down menu of current issues. Select the three issues that interest you most and enter them in the boxes below.

- 2) After you have identified your issues, write a brief statement in each box that explains why this is one of the three **most** important issues facing voters in the 2008 election. You should include at least one specific supporting detail in your explanation. To get this information, use the Internet or the resources distributed in class.

- 3) If you watched a debate between two candidates, what would you **most** want to hear one or more of them say about your issue? What belief, promises, or plans would you want discussed? Write this answer in the last section of each box.

<p>My first issue is: _____</p> <p>This issue is especially important this year because:</p> <p>Any political candidate that I support would take the following position on this issue:</p>	<p>My second issue is: _____</p> <p>This issue is especially important this year because:</p> <p>Any political candidate that I support would take the following position on this issue:</p>	<p>My third issue is: _____</p> <p>This issue is especially important this year because:</p> <p>Any political candidate that I support would take the following position on this issue:</p>
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II. Candidate's Positions on Your Issues

Your second homework assignment is to find out the specific position of the presidential and vice presidential candidates on the issues that you have identified. Use the information distributed in class or the Internet to help you find out more about the candidates.

CANDIDATE NAME	POLITICAL PARTY	POSITION ON ISSUE 1 (_____)	POSITION ON ISSUE 2 (_____)	POSITION ON ISSUE 3 (_____)
Barack Obama/ Joseph Biden				
John McCain/ Sarah Palin				

III. Political Cartoon



Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of loose-leaf paper.

1. Who is the smaller character in this cartoon supposed to be? What is he saying?
2. Who is the larger character? How is he handling the smaller character?
3. Whom do you think this cartoonist supports in the election? Explain.