

Name _____

Political Science 321
Blog Posts (15%)

Objective

To convey how academic work in political science can help the average American voter understand a current event in US elections.

Due Date

_____ by 5:00pm – via email (mag@cpp.edu)

Format

The blog post is short. Usually, on average, they are 500-750 words long (approximately one double-spaced page). The blog post should be written in an easy-to-read and accessible style. The average newspaper is written at the 11th-grade level; you should tailor your writing to a similar convention. Your audience is a general group of readers, but your writing should be professional and influenced by the academic work we investigate in class.

Directions

Choose any current event in American elections. The event should be as recent as a one-month time span. Using at least **one reading** or **academic study examined in lecture**, give a critical assessment of that current event, helping your audience understand the importance of that event. In addition, students must submit a short biography to appear alongside their blog post.

EXAMPLE: Billy Bronco is a third-year political science major who enjoys cooking, basketball and John McCain. He plans on a long-term career in politics after graduating from Cal Poly Pomona.

Posting Schedule

Blog posts are due every other day, beginning in Week 2. Students will select only **one day** to turn in their blog post. You cannot turn in blog posts on any other day but your assigned date. Blog posts must be turned in via e-mail by 5PM. Any blog post not received on the assigned day will receive a zero. Sign-ups are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Grading

The blog post will be graded on selection of your current event, ability to explain your current event within the bounds of academic research/reading, balance (the ability to present a measured and non-bias analysis), writing/grammar and critical analysis. These blog posts should be a thoughtful assessment of the class material. Show me that you can engage with the ideas we cover in class and apply them to what is happening in politics today. In addition, if I have to edit your writing to make it accessible and presentable to publish, you will lose points. Extensive editing will receive severe deductions in the final grade.