American Government: Politics Today Project

For this assignment, you will select and then research either an elected or appointed political figure (at either the state or federal level), a third party, a particular piece of legislation. These must be current figures (someone who is currently in office or ran for office within the last two years), or a bill that was passed within the past year.

Your choice needs to be unique (i.e. different from those of your classmates), so you will need to sign up in the Google spreadsheet included in this post. Be sure your selection hasn't already been claimed before you start researching!

In the project itself, you will need to give an overview of the figure/party/bill that includes the following (be sure you address all of these prompts in narrative, i.e. paragraph, form):

- What does the person/law stand for? What are his/her/its major beliefs or goals? In what ways do his/her/its beliefs align with those of the two major parties?
- What is his/her/its current status or position? How has he/she/it progressed through his/her/its career?
- What are his/her/its greatest accomplishments? What are some major events or issues that he/she/it has been involved in or weighed in on?
- How is he/she/it regarded by colleagues and constituents (or, for a bill/law, what types of discussions and debates did it raise)? Is there any controversy surrounding him/her/it?
- Include a direct (and meaningful) quote from the person, party platform or spokesman, or the bill itself or one of its main supporters that helps explain one of the prompts above
- Why did you make this choice? (What makes it interesting or meaningful to you)
- Analysis: What does his/her/its work and existence reveal about how democracy functions in America?

<u>Formatting and additional requirements:</u>

Though this does not need to take the form of an essay, please write in narrative form with introductory and concluding style paragraphs. You can write a bit more informally, but use your "I's" sparingly.

Please type and double space your final project and keep your font a consistent 12 point font (Times or Calibri—i.e. the defaults for Word) throughout. There is no length requirement but your final project should be between 2 and 3 typed (double spaced) pages of text, including the images.

Include **an image** of the figure or key figure from the party, or key person closely associated with the bill.

Use **two or more quality sources** and cite them in **MLA format** at the end of the project. Examples of quality sources are reputable news outlets or publications and the media center databases (which you can access from home).

Grading will be based on:

_____ / 15 The thoughtfulness of your approach (including your choice of topic, if applicable)
_____ / 15 The thoroughness, accuracy and relevancy of your research and quality of your sources
_____ / 10 The organization of your writing, fluidity/readability of your written response
_____ / 10 The overall effort and sophistication that's apparent in your final product

This will be graded out of **50 points** and due at the start of class on **Monday 1/13**. 5 point penalty per day for late work (work submitted any time after class meets on the due date).