

ITV—THE WEEKEND COLLEGE LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Political Science 1: The Government of the United States, 7915 WINTER 2008, UC:CSU, 3 Units

Instructor: Mr. Som Chounlamountry, MA	Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-6 PM	Email: chounlam@usc.edu (818) 364-7600, ext. 7162
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CLASS MEETINGS: <i>Attend any <u>one</u> of the 2 campus locations. The same material will be discussed in all classes</i>	Day	Campus	Time	Location
	Saturday	L.A. Valley College	09:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Foreign Language Bldg., Rm. 106
	Saturday	L.A. City College	01:30 PM - 04:30 PM	DaVinci Hall, RM. 305

COURSE SYLLABUS (REVISED 01 JAN. CHECK ETUDES-NG FOR LATEST VERSION)

This course is an analytical study of politics and political institutions in the United States and the state of California. It investigates human behavior within the framework of those political institutions and further understanding of the roles of the mass media and of the economy in American politics. It deals with how the U.S. Constitution and how the government meet democracy's challenge in a world of change. The latter part of the course will focus on California paying particular attention to political, economic, cultural and demographic trends. This course has been approved for credit transfer to the University of California and the California State University systems.

Integral to this course is the video series FRAMEWORK FOR DEMOCRACY which probes concepts that are basic to the introductory course in American government. The course combines 26 half-hour videos with the recognized textbook WE THE PEOPLE (Patterson) to encourage learners to think about and debate many questions and challenges confronting our democracy. This course has been approved for credit transfer to the University of California and the California State University systems.

There are 3 Components to this ITV course: Weekend Class Meetings, Videos, and Online Contents. Students are expected to be in attendance and participate in the Video Discussions online and submit assignments and take quizzes online. Please have reliable access to a computer with internet access.

****NOTE: PLEASE FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCEDURES.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Content Knowledge — Upon completion of this course the student will have an understanding of, or be able to apply, the following principles and concepts:

1. The influence of representative government on our daily lives and of the citizens with their respective values upon the policies and institutions of government.
2. The basic constitutional principles of separation of powers and check and balance between the three branches of government.
3. A respect for The Bill of Rights and the evolution of American Civil Rights.
4. An understanding of the interaction and relationships between federal, state, and local governments as they operate in different national and cultural contexts.
5. An understanding of basic political processes and instructions at all levels in a way that empowers them with a critical thinking ability to gain access in a democracy.

Exit Skills — Upon completion of this course the student have the following skills:

1. To be able to critically analyze state, local and national news.
2. To be able to explain and discuss how federal, state and local government interrelate and impact the lives of its citizens.
3. To critically analyze issues to be voted on in a ballot.
4. To be able to comfortably work in, or run, and election campaign.
5. To have the knowledge of how to influence legislation, and write legislators.
6. To know how your rights as a citizen, and the protections afforded by the Bill of Rights, along with the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts.

CLASS MATERIALS

1. **Required:** Patterson, T. E.; *We the People: A Concise Introduction to American Politics*, McGraw-Hill, 7th Edition. (ISBN-13 9780073403861) or 6th edition (ISBN 0-07-319774-2) or 5th edition (ISBN:0-07-28 1733-X).
2. **Required:** Field, M.; *California Government and Politics Today*, Longman, (ISBN-13: 978-0205521159) 11th or 10th edition (ISBN: 0-321-12962-8)

Save \$\$, Buy u\$ed Book\$ <http://www.lamissionbookstore.com/> **Select Term > Political Science.**

3. **Required:** Video Series: *Framework for Democracy: On Common Ground*. Students may—**Buy the Videos for \$16** from <http://www.piercebookstore.com/> or <http://www.lamissionbookstore.com/>. Rent the video series from ACT/RMI Media: www.rmimedia.com or 800-745-5480. **Watch the Videos on Campus:** Videos may be viewed at the Learning Resource Centers of Pierce, Valley, City, Southwest, and Mission Colleges. You must bring your fee receipt with you to watch them. **Or Watch them on channel LA36:** Video broadcasts airs on cable channel LA36 Fridays, Jan 4 – Feb 1 @ 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Please see Calendar.

GRADING

GRADING SCALE
Out of 600 Points
A = 540 Points and above
B = 480 to 539 Points
C = 420 to 479 Points
D = 360 to 419 Points
F = 359 Points and Below

POINT DISTRIBUTION
In-Class Final Exam (2 Hours) = 150 Points
Midterm (2 Hours) = 100 Points
Research Paper (all components) = 100 Points
Political Scrapbook (all components) = 100 Points
8 Online Quizzes (30 minutes each) = 80 Points
Video Discussions (7 Original Posts and Replies) = 70 Points

EXTRA-CREDIT COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEERING

To help ensure that students can obtain and maintain good grades, students are encouraged to volunteer for extra-credit. **SERVICE LEARNING (Volunteering for the Community).** Students can earn up to **one whole grade** improvement for the course. Please refer to the section at the end of the syllabus for more details. Students can earn the maximum points by volunteering for 10 hours. Each hour is worth a **+6 points** improvement. Maximum for EXTRA-CREDIT is **60 Points**.

Service Learning is an innovative teaching methodology that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Rules:

- Up to ten percent (6 points for every hour volunteered) will be added to overall semester grade. Therefore the maximum extra-credit work can increase your grades from **C to B**, or **B to A**, etc.
- All volunteer work must be performed at a nonprofit community & political organization which directly represents and/or benefits local residents. For example: it could be done at schools, the local office of a Congressperson, State Senator, City-Council Person; the local chapter of the Red Cross, League of Women Voters, Anti-Defamation League, American Civil Liberties Union, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, AARP, etc..
- **Prior authorization from me is required regarding the selection of such an organization for Service Learning credits.**
- A one page, typed, double-spaced, and proof-read essay delineating the specific experiences you encountered and how it made you feel. Submit this essay as an **Assignment** along with the supervisor's contact information.
- Please ask that the supervisor email me at chounlam@usc.edu a confirmation of your hours and their contact information.

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS

Exams will be given during class. Please bring PHOTO ID, BLUE BOOK (large or small) and SCANTRON form 882-e. MIDTERM and FINAL EXAMS will have objective parts, short answers and essays. The objective questions will be multiple choice, matching and true/false. The length of the exams will be 2 hours each. Exams will start promptly. All personal materials and electronic devices must be placed under the seats. Students using unauthorized aids or electronic devices will automatically receive a grade of zero and will be asked to leave the testing area.

ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments will be submitted electronically for grading. It is recommended that students compose and save their assignments in a word document. Once completed, simply copy (CTRL+C) and paste (CTRL+V) into the text book of the assignment.

Each student will create a POLITICAL SCRAPBOOK (aka Political Journal) in which they will respond to statements and discussion questions and complete activities. Check under the Assignments area for details and instructions. The responses must be turned in electronically to the ETUDES-NG system for grading. The Scrapbook is also designed for your personal reference documenting your journey through American Government and Politics and a study guide. Long after you have completed the course you may wish to reflect upon it. The exercises will be compiled to compose a political scrapbook which will be graded.

ONLINE QUIZZES

All the quizzes will be AVAILABLE according to the ETUDES-NG schedule. Students may take the quizzes anytime during the AVAILABLE period. Once a student has elected to OPEN a quiz, it must be completed within 30 minutes. It is important to have reliable access to the internet and to be able to log on to ETUDES-NG.

ONLINE VIDEO DISCUSSIONS

Each week, students are required to participate in online discussions about the video episodes. Students are free to pick one of the four questions, each relating to the video lessons from the Framework for Democracy video series. It is required you post an Original Posting consisting of at least an one-paragraph reaction to the questions posed in the weekly series.

It is suggested that you compose your response in a word processor and then cut and copy your response to the Assignment section and also the Discussion Forum. Please read other students comments and reactions. It is required each students QUOTE and comment on another student's reaction.

To receive credit, students will simply copy (CTRL+C) and paste (CTRL+V) their original response to the question and their reply of another student's posting into the text book of the appropriate assignment in the ASSIGNMENTS section. To receive full points you must submit a copy of your REPLY and your QUOTE as an ASSIGNMENT to be graded. Some assignments have been combined for your convenience.

The videos are also available for purchase at the [Pierce College Bookstore](#) and Mission College Bookstore. **Watch the Videos on Campus:** Videos may be viewed at the Learning Resource Centers of Pierce, Valley, City, Southwest, and Mission Colleges. You must bring your fee receipt with you to watch them. Or **Watch them on channel LA36:** Video broadcasts airs on cable channel [LA36](#). See Calendar.

EXAM & CLASS POLICIES

Plagiarism and Cheating Policy

Students engaging in cheating or plagiarizing, will receive zero (0) points for that assignment or exam. Further disciplinary action may be taken, including failing the class and/or reporting to the college. It is not appropriate to use any websites in constructing the research paper. All materials must be obtained through the designated databases and must be of scholarly nature. The unauthorized use of paper databases or the cutting and pasting of pre-existing papers will be considered cheating. A general rule of thumb for the paper is: *"If you use something to write it, then you must cite it."*

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities seeking academic accommodations from instructors must present instructors, at or before the beginning of the semester or as soon as possible after classes begin, the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) - recommendation for academic accommodations, so that the accommodations can be provided in a timely manner.

CONTACTING ME

Please update your email ETUDES-NG > MY WORKSPACE > ACCOUNT > MODIFY DETAILS. Class emails will be sent to whatever address you designate.

Your primary means for contacting me will be through email chounlam@usc.edu. **Please fully identify yourself: In the Subject line of your email write: PS1 and Section Number & Your Full Name.** Failure to do so, will result in no response or a delay. Barring technical difficulties, I will usually respond within 24 hours. Please follow up with another email if there is no response. **Avoid using the Private Message System or CHATROOM which requires login into the system; please email me questions directly to chounlam@usc.edu**

MONDAY	T U E	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	S U N
	1	2 Semester Begins 1) REVIEW SYLLABUS 2) EMAIL ME at chounlam@usc.edu 1) Full Name 2) Email 3) Phone 4) Birthday 5) Joke	3 3) Welcome Quiz (+10 Pts) ~ .5 hour 4) SELF INTRODUCTION (+10 Pts) ~ .5 hour	4 Videos * WATCH Lessons 1-6: Airing 10AM – 1 PM ** <i>POST DISCUSSION1</i> BY 11 PM	5 1 st Class Meeting Types of Government Democracy Dec. of Independence Constitution Bill of Rights Federalism	6
7 Readings WTP Chapter 1: American Political Culture; WTP Chapter 2: Constitutional Democracy; WTP Chapter 3: Federalism WTP: Read US Constitution & Dec. of Independence	8	9 Quiz: 30 min each Quiz1: WTP Chaps 1, 2 & 3: American Political Culture, Constitutional Democracy, Federalism Quiz2: Matching the Bill of Rights	10 Assignment SUBMIT PAPER SECTIONS 1-3 P1: Topic Proposal P2: Preliminary Research P3: Detailed Outline with Sources	11 Videos * WATCH Lessons 7-12: Airing 10AM – 1 PM ** <i>POST DISCUSSION2 & DISCUSSION 3</i> SUBMIT BY 11PM DISCUSSION1-3	12 2 nd Class Meeting Freedoms & Rights of the Accused War on Terrorism Civil Rights Movement Public Opinion Political Socialization Political Ideology	13
14 Readings WTP Chapter 4: Civil Liberties WTP Chapter 5: Equal Rights WTP Chapter 6: Public Opinion and Political Socialization	15	16 Quiz: 30 min each Quiz3: Are these Scholarly Sources? Quiz4: WTP Chaps 4, 5, & 6: Civil Rights, Equal Rights, Public Opinion & Political Socialization	17 Assignment SUBMIT SCRAPBOOK SECTIONS Intro - 2 A. Introductions B. Section 1: Learning About Politics C. Section 2: Seeing Politics / Me As a Political Scholar	18 Videos * WATCH Lessons 13-18: Airing 10AM – 1 PM ** <i>POST DISCUSSION4</i> BY 11 PM	19 3 rd Class Meeting MIDTERM EXAM (100 Pts) ~ 2 hours	20
21 Readings WTP: Chapter 11: Congress WTP: Chapter 12: The Presidency WTP: Chapter 14: The Federal Judicial System	22	23 Quiz: 30 min each Quiz5: WTP Chaps 11, 12 & 14: Congress, President & Judiciary Quiz6: Court Cases	24 Assignment SUBMIT PAPER SECTIONS 4-5 P4: First Draft POST your Rough Draft in the Discussion Forum P5: Final Draft	25 Videos *WATCH Lessons 18-24: Airing 10AM – 1 PM ** <i>POST DISCUSSION5 & DISCUSSION6</i> BY 11 PM	26 4 th Class Meeting Congress Presidency Courts California History California Government	27
28 Readings California Chapter 1-3 California Chapter 4-7 California Chapter 8-11 California Chapter 12-15	29	30 Quiz: 30 min each Quiz7: CA1—Chaps 1-7 Quiz8: CA2—CA Chaps 8-15	31 Assignment SUBMIT SCRAPBOOK SECTIONS: 3-6 D. Section 3: Political Me E. Section 4: Me As a Voter F. Section 5: Me As the Policy Maker G. Section 6: My Declaration	FEB 1 Videos * WATCH Lessons 25- 26 Airing 10AM – 1 PM ** <i>POST DISCUSSION7</i> SUBMIT BY 11 PM DISCUSSION 4-7	2 5 th Class Meeting FINAL EXAM (150 Pts) ~ 2 hours	3

NOTE: Pace yourself and plan ahead. You may go ahead of class. All Assignments are due by 11 PM.

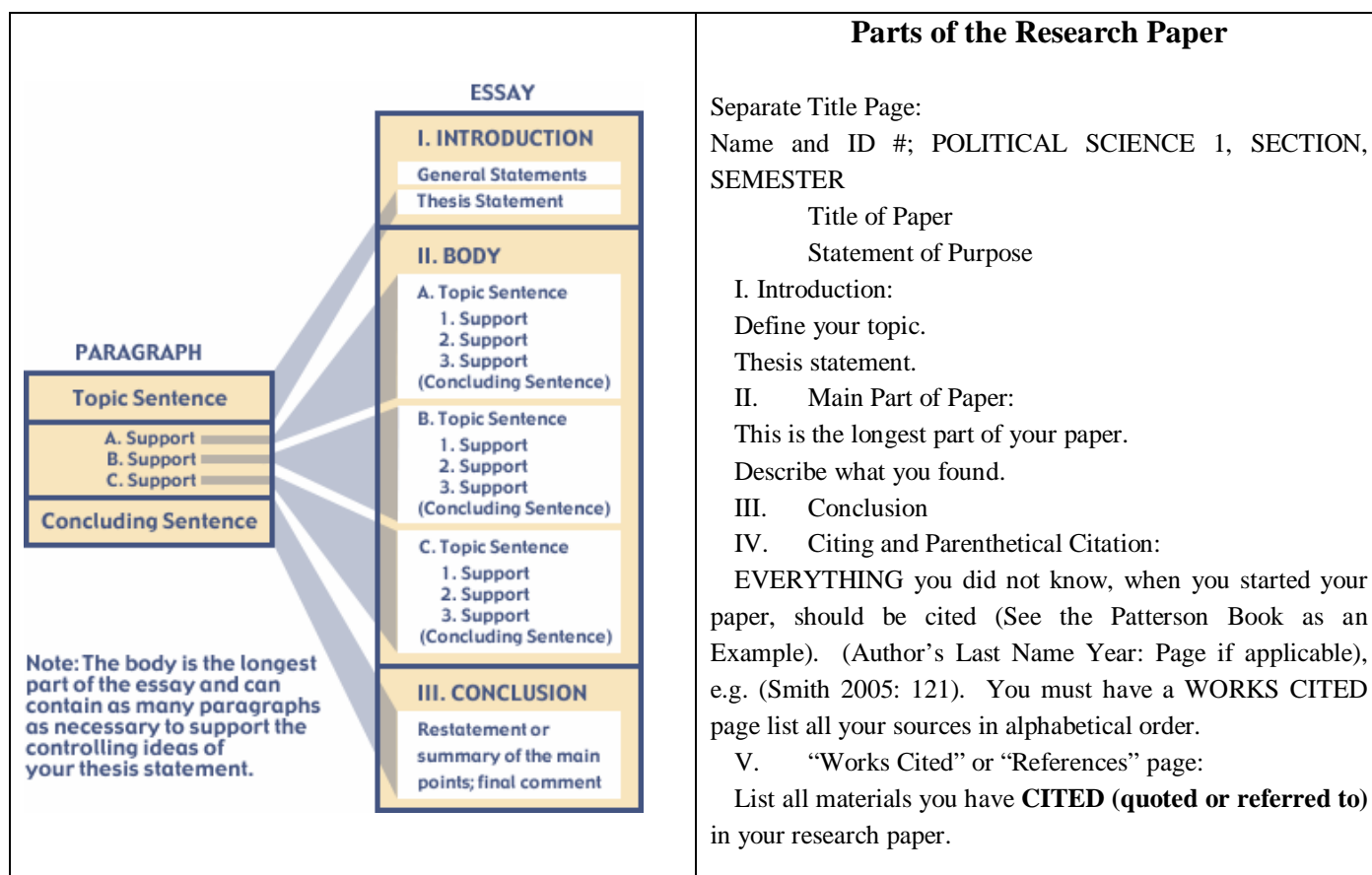
Important Dates to Remember

Semester Begins	January 2
Cablecasts Begin on Cable Channel LA 36	January 2
Last Day to Drop or Change Classes Without Incurring Fees	January 5
Last Day to Add by FAX or In-Person	January 9
Last Day to Drop Classes Without a "W" (No Refund)	January 11
Last Day to File for Credit/No Credit	January 17
Last Day to Drop With a "W" (After This Date a Grade Must be Issued)	January 26

THE RESEARCH PAPER

Research Paper Requirement

1. 5 to 7 pages of typed, double-spaced, paginated, 12 fonts (Times New Roman), standard margin and proofread paper on topics to be decided by the first week of class.
2. Your paper shall be graded based on substance and form. Please refer to the grading rubric and guidelines.
3. Your research should focus on **scholarly journal articles**. (These articles cite other authors and must have a WORKS CITED or REFERENCE PAGE). Check the Discussion Area for Research Tips and Passwords to Journal Databases. **YOU MUST GET AT LEAST TEN (10) SCHOLARLY SOURCES FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:**
1. EBSCOhost 2. Opposing Viewpoints 3. CQ Researcher (The ETUDES-NG has the Library Passwords)
4. I accept any type of styles — MLA, APA, Chicago, etc. — Please be consistent with a single style throughout your paper.
5. **Every component of the research paper: topic selection and outline (10 pts), preliminary research (35 pts), detailed outline with sources (20 pts), first draft (25 pts), and final paper (10 pts) must be submitted online.**
6. **Late Submissions will be penalized 10% for each week they are late.**



Scholarly articles are generally written by people who are experts on a subject. These articles **always have bibliographies or footnotes** that back up the research and point you toward other useful information on a particular topic. Sometimes they are in journals that are "**scholarly**," "**peer reviewed**," or "**refereed**," which means a panel of experts has approved many of the articles before they are published in the journal. These articles are often written with a specific audience in mind, for example: students, specialists, or researchers in a certain field.

POSSIBLE PAPER TOPICS

These topics have been pre-approved. Include the Required Article in your paper. *Other topics must be approved by instructor*

Topics	Required Article. (Read these first!) You must include the required article as part of your research. Go to http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/ username: mission password: la818
Abortion	Jost, K., & Koch, K. (2006, September 22). Abortion showdowns. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 769-792. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2006092200 .
Alternative Fuels	Cooper, M. H. (2005, February 25). Alternative fuels. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 173-196. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2005022500 .
Campaign Finance Reform	Cooper, M. H. (2000, March 31). Campaign finance reform. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 10, 257-280. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2000033100 .
Checks and Balances	Jost, K. (2006, February 24). Presidential power. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 169-192. Retrieved January 29, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2006022400 .
Civil Liberties and the War on Terror	Jost, K. (2003, October 24). Civil liberties debates. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 13, 893-916. Retrieved January 29, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2003102400 .
Climate Change	Clemmitt, M. (2006, January 27). Climate change. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 73-96. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2006012700 .
Death Penalty	Jost, K. (2005, September 23). Death penalty controversies. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 785-808. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2005092301 .
Electoral College	Jost, K., & Giroux, G. (2000, December 8). Electoral College. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 10, 977-1008. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2000120800 .
Free-Press Dispute	Jost, K. (2005, April 8). Free-press disputes. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 293-316. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2005040800 .
Future of the Supreme Court	Jost, K. (2005, January 28). Supreme Court's future. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 77-100. Retrieved January 29, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2005012800 .
Human Cloning	Hansen, B. (2004, October 22). Cloning debate. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 14, 877-900. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2004102200 .
Medical Marijuana	Marshall, P. (2005, February 11). Marijuana laws. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 125-148. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2005021100 .
Minimum Wage and Poverty	Katel, P. (2005, December 16). Minimum wage. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 1053-1076. Retrieved January 29, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2005121600 .
Right to Die and Assisted Suicide	Jost, K. (2005, May 13). Right to die. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 421-444. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2005051301 .
Stem Cell Research	Clemmitt, M. (2006, September 1). Stem cell research. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 697-720. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2006090100 .
Universal Health Care	Epstein, K. (2002, June 14). Covering the uninsured. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 12, 521-544. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2002061400 .
US Energy Policy	Cooper, M. H. (1999, March 5). The politics of energy. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 9, 185-208. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre1999030500 .
Voting and Participation	Katel, P. (2006, September 15). Voting controversies. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 745-768. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2006091500 .