**AP US Government—Show Me the $ – Campaign Finance Internet Research**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov). View the Senate committee assignments for Florida’s two U.S. Senators (Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio). Which groups do you think attempt to influence legislation and contribute the most to the campaigns of our Senators based on their committee assignments?

**Current Members of Congress:**

1. Using the website of the Center for Responsive Politics, [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org), research our U.S. Senators. This is located under the tab, “Politicians & Elections.” Then click on “Congress.” Search the database “by member.” How much did each Senator raise in the most recent election?
2. Who are the top 5 contributors to their campaigns? How much did they contribute?
3. How much of their own personal money did they invest in their campaigns, if any?
4. Look up the US House of Representatives member for your district. Who is it? What types of industries would be most likely to contribute to his/her campaign? Why?
5. Now, look at his/her campaign contributions. Which category comprised the majority of his/her funds? Looking at the contributors and industries that donated to the campaign, are they similar to the groups you listed above? Do any of them surprise you? Why or why not?

**2016 Presidential Election:**

1. Still using [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org), analyze the spending of the last Presidential Election. Amounts are located under the tab, “Politicians & Elections.” Then click on “Presidential.”

How did the money raised and spent by Hillary Clinton compare to that of Donald Trump? Include top industries, top states, top contributors and sectors in your analysis. What surprises you the most about the money spent in the 2016 Presidential election?

**PACs and Lobbying:**

1. Go to “Influencing and Lobbying,” then “PACS.” What is a PAC? Is a Super PAC really a PAC? Why/why not? What are some of the top contributing PACs and how much do they donate? To whom do they donate? How are these different from 527s?
2. Go to the “Resources” tab, then “Lobbying History” and “Money in Politics” timelines. Summarize what you found out here:

**10. Things You Should Know about campaign spending—a summary:**

Go to “Resources,” then “Learn.” What are the *10 Things You Should Know*? Don’t just copy them; read them, too!