

Follow the Money
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Objective:

Students will draw a correlation between large lawmakers' contributing groups and legislative activities.

Resources and Materials:

Paper

Pens

Computers with Internet Connection

C-Span Congressional Chronicle Site: <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/congress>

Procedures:

1. Individually or in groups, students are given a House Member or Senator.

SC House Members:

Tim Scott (R): 1st District

Joe Wilson (R): 2nd District

Jeff Duncan (R): 3rd District

Trey Gowdy (R): 4th District

Mick Mulvaney (R): 5th District

Jim Clyburn (D): 6th District

SC Senators:

Lindsey Graham (R)

Jim DeMint (R)

2. Students are to find their Congressman in the Congressional Chronicles using the website listed above.
3. Under the "Finances" and "PAC Contributions" tabs on students should find and list the top five industries and dollar amounts donated to the politician in 2010.
4. Under the "Committees" tab, students should list the committees on which their congressman serves.
5. Under the "Bills" tab for the 112th Congress, list and describe bills that the congressman has introduced that directly correlates with the industries that donate funds his/her campaign.
6. Students should discuss their findings with the class.

Assessment:

Assign the following essay:

Using the information gathered, answer the following question: Can this Congressman be bought? Discuss the congressman's finances, committees, and sponsored bills as evidence to support your answer.