

This is the third assignment of four that will do to complete your State Project. Below are the - major areas that you will research on your state for this assignment. I have included IDEAS for things that you should include in your research under each of the categories. The purpose of this assignment (and project) is to get in-depth understanding of the political institutions your state. You may include figures and tables as appropriate in your discussion, but this is not necessary (and should not be included) for all items.

1. *The Executive Branch: Governors and the Bureaucracy*
 - a. *Elections*
 - i. *Is the governor elected in on-cycle or off-cycle elections?*
 - ii. *What is the governor's term length in your state? Are there term limits?*
 - b. *Governor Powers*
 - i. *How much control does the governor have over the budget process?*
 - ii. *Does the governor have veto power?*
 1. *Include a discussion of line-item vetoes if applicable in your state.*
 - iii. *Does the governor have appointment powers? What office does he/she have the power to make appointments to?*
 - iv. *Does the governor have formal powers over the legislative agenda? Other formal powers over the legislature?*
 - v. *Have there been recent (last 10 years) reforms to the governor's powers in your state?*
 - c. *Who is the current governor of your state?*
 - i. *What percentage of the vote did they win in the last election?*
 - ii. *How much did they spend on their campaign (if available)?*
 - iii. *What issues did he/she campaign on?*
 - iv. *What party is he/she affiliated with?*
 - v. *How long has he/she served in office?*
 - vi. *What is their background (occupation, previous offices served)?*
 - d. *Is the lieutenant governor elected or appointed?*
 - e. *Has your state every had a female or racial/ethnic minority serve as governor?*
2. *The Legislative Branch: State Legislatures*
 - a. *Are there term limits?*
 - b. *Are there single or multi-member districts in your state?*
 - c. *How many members are in each chamber?*
 - d. *How long are sessions?*
 - e. *What is salary given to state legislators in your states?*
 - f. *How professionalized is the legislature?*
 - g. *How much oversight power does the legislature have over the bureaucracy?*
 - h. *What is the current majority party in each chamber (include percentages)?*
 - i. *What is the demographic makeup of legislators during the current session?*
 - j. *How many votes are required to override a veto in your state?*
 - i. *Is your state veto-proof during the current session?*
 - k. *Committees*
 - i. *How many standing committees are there in each chamber?*
 - ii. *Who appoints members to committees?*
 - iii. *Is there a fixed size for committees in the rules?*

- iv. *Is there a minimum or maximum committee assignment rule?*
 - v. *Are there proportionality rules for committee compositions?*
 1. *How many pieces of legislation were introduced in previous session? How many passed? (You can find this on <https://openstates.org/>)*
3. *The Judicial Branch: State Courts*
 - a. *What is the structure of the court system in your state?*
 - b. *What are the courts of limited jurisdiction in your state?*
 - c. *What is the judicial selection method in your state (legislative selection, gubernatorial appointment, partisan/nonpartisan elections, merit)?*
 - d. *What are the judicial salaries in your state? (See <https://www.ncsc.org/salarytracker>)*
 - e. *What is the demographic makeup of judges in your state (if available)?*
 - f. *How often are states supreme court decisions cited in out-of-state decisions?*
4. *Unified or Divided Government*
 - a. *What has the trend been in unified/divided government in your state over the last 8 year?*
5. *Other*
 - a. *Is there anything else that you found interest about the institutions in your state?*

Here are some resources to find out more information about the institutions in your state:

- *State governor and legislature websites*
- *Book of States: <http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/category/content-type/content-type/book-states>*
- *National Governors Association: <https://www.nga.org/>*
- *National Conference of State Legislatures: <http://www.ncsl.org/>*
- *National Center for State Courts: <https://www.ncsc.org/>*
- *Open States: <https://openstates.org/>*

Grading Breakdown (50 pts total):

- *40 pt. State Information (based on quality and depth of the research on the state)*
- *2 pt. Grammar and Spelling*
- *2 pt. References*
- *2 pt. Consistent Reference Formatting*
- *2 pt. Formatting (see general guidelines below)*
- *2pt. PDF*

General Guidelines: This assignment should be approximately 4-6 pages double spaced not including figures and tables This should be written in paragraph form. This assignment should be double spaced, Times New Roman size 12 font, with 1-inch margins. You can use any citation method that you prefer, but you must include your references and your citation method must be consistent. You do not need a cover page for this assignment.

Remember that you will need to upload this document as a PDF (not word or txt) to CourseWeb by 1pm on March 5th. No late assignments will be accepted.