

Calling Congress 101 - Assignment Grading Guidelines

PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT:

In order to successfully use the telephone as a route to keep your elected governmental officials accountable, you need to practice. This assignment is all about practice. Mr Wood will serve as the Congressman's office - you are the constituent. Play it out exactly as though this was a real phone call. Ask from Mr. Wood exactly what you would ask from your elected representative.

PREPARATION FOR YOUR PHONE CALL:

Look over the syllabus for "Calling Congress 101". We will make practice phone calls in class so that you are better able to successfully fulfill this assignment. Also, survey the call-in worksheet before you organize for your phone call. Fill it out and have it in front of you when you call. Use this sheet for actual phone calls as well.

WHO TO ASK FOR:

While in the real world the Congressman's office will greet you with the Congressman's name - Mr. Wood will say "Hello" It is up to you to ask for the official who best fits your situation. And then we'll go from there.

TIMES TO CALL:



You must call between the hours noted on the right. You may not fulfill the assignment by leaving a message. If the line is busy or if there is no answer try again and again. In the real world if you call your Congressman and he is unavailable, in order to be heard you must call back. So do it until you get through.

Government (2015)

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|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Friday Jan 30 | 616-402-8668 | 3:30 AM to 4:30 PM |
| Saturday Jan 31 | 616-402-8668 | 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM |
| Sunday Feb 1 | 616-402-8668 | 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM |

FOCUS OF CALL:

The focus of your phone call must be your selected ACT issue. It may be to your advantage to prepare with fellow group members, but your phone call MUST be solo. And please no speaker phones.

GRADING RUBRIC:

Follow your "Calling Congress 101 Worksheet"- check your boxes as you go. This will provide you a guideline to earn a good grade. The following rubric will be used for grading. Mr. Wood will provide you a final report of your phone call. This is a 50 point assignment on your Homework grade.

GUIDELINES TO COVER

- 5 - discuss more indepth information on the ACT issue
- 4 - be knowledgeable about the issue in a general way
- 3 - follow the guide and check boxes on the worksheet
- 2 - pose an organized line of reasoning
- 1 - phone etiquette is followed

RUBRIC

To earn an A or B, you must fulfill at least four of five guidelines listed to the left.

C is fulfilled by executing three of the guidelines.

D+ is fulfilled by covering two of the guidelines. D if you at least call.

The only way you fail is to NOT make the phone call.