**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT**

(This will take the place of the regular Community Service Project for this semester only)

**PURPOSE:** State and local governments have arguably the biggest impact on our day-to-day lives, largely because they are the closest to us in proximity. While we may never see the President in person or actually meet a member of the US Congress or Senate, it is far more likely that we will interact with a member of the city council at a local event or possibly cross paths with some other representative of state or local government. The focus of the is assignment it to familiarize you with the world around you when it comes to state and local government agencies in the community and how they function.

**STEP ONE:** Attend *one* public meeting from those listed below (**see attached page for specific details. Be sure to check online to double check meeting locations and dates**).

\_\_\_\_A. Sit in on a city council meeting

\_\_\_\_B. Attend a meeting of the San Juan School Board

\_\_\_\_C. Attend a meeting of a local special district

\_\_\_\_D. Attend a session of the State Legislature (State Senate or Assembly) or the Superior Court – **Caution: These are daytime meetings**

\_\_\_\_E. Observe a trial in Superior Court

**STEP TWO:** Prepare a 1-2 page write up documenting your experience. Include the following:

**Introduction:**

* The name of the local government agency you visited, the meeting date and time, the length of your visit
* The names of the elected members of involved and their positions
* An estimate of the number of people attending the meeting
* A description of human behaviors

**Main body of the paper:**

* A description of issues included on the agenda (obtain a paper copy of the agenda, if possible and attach it to your verification sheet)
* A detailed discussion of the issues which were discussed/decisions which were made during your visit, including any controversies which emerged, and public comments made by those in the audience. You are discussing what happened at the meeting in this portion of your paper. You might have to work with your parents or Mr. Brandt to try to fully understand what was discussed/decided at the meeting

**Conclusion:**

* A discussion of what you learned through your experience of attending this meeting (include at least three observations)
* Feedback of your own about what you observed (both positive and/or negative) and your thoughts about the issues which were the focus of the meeting
* Include any questions you might have about your experience

**PAPER REQUIREMENTS:**

* Your paper should be 1-2 pages in length – *the more thorough you are, the better your grade*
* Paper should be typed, 12 point font, Helvetica, double spaced, 1 inch margins
* Proper grammar, spelling, paragraph, sentence structure and punctuation are required. Be sure to carefully proofread and edit your paper before you hand it in.

**STEP FOUR:** Take a photo of yourself at the meeting – try to capture a picture of yourself (it could include a group if you are attending with other students) with something which will validate the fact that you are at a specific public meeting. Be sure to use good judgement when taking the photo *– ask permission if you are not sure what is allowed.*

**STEP FIVE:** Obtain a signature on the form provided verifying your attendance. This should be turned in with your paper, a copy of the photograph you took, and the paper agenda for the meeting if you were able to obtain one.

**Guidelines for attending a public meeting:**

* Wear appropriate clothing- what you would wear if you were interviewing for a job. Remember you are the school’s ambassador as you make these visits, please leave a good impression.
* Go as an individual or in small groups of 2-4 people.
* Be quiet and attentive during the meeting – no electronics/texting.
* Take writing materials and be prepared to make notes about what you see.
* Introduce yourself if it is appropriate and ask questions.
* Obtain relevant handouts to be submitted with your paper if possible.
* Bring something to take a photo (camera or cellphone) but be sure to ask before taking pictures inside the meeting.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES MEETING TIMES**

(Please call before attending to make sure agencies are in fact meeting that evening)

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| **San Juan Unified School Board**  [www.sanjuan.edu](http://www.sanjuan.edu)  3738 Walnut Avenue, Carmichael 916-971-7111  Meetings: second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:30pm | **State Assembly and Senate**  www.assembly.ca.gov [www.senate.ca.gob](http://www.senate.ca.gob)  State Capitol, 10t th Street, Sac 916-319-2856  Call to verify legislature is in session |
| **Sacramento County Board of Supervisors**  [www.bos.saccounty.net](http://www.bos.saccounty.net)  700 H Street, Room 1450, Sac 916-874-5411  Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm | **California Court of Appeals (3rd Appellate District)**  [www.courts.ca.gov/courtsofappeal.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/courtsofappeal.htm)  914 Capitol Mall, Sac 916-814-4717  Meetings: Call (ask for the calendar clerk) |
| **Citrus Heights City Council**  [www.citrusheights.net](http://www.citrusheights.net)  6360 Fountain Square Dr., Citrus Heights 916-725-2448  Meetings: Second and Fourth Thursday of each month at 7pm | **Superior Court of California**  [www.saccourt.ca.gov](http://www.saccourt.ca.gov)  720 9th St., Sac 874-5744 (civil) 874-5522 (criminal)  Trials open to the public daily 8:30-4pm |
| **Orangevale Community Planning Advisory Council**  Orangevale Community Center -  6826 Hazel Ave, Orangevale  Meetings: First Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm | **Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District**  [www.metrofire.ca.gov](http://www.metrofire.ca.gov)  10545 Armstrong Ave, Mather 916-859-4300  Meetings: Second and fourth Thursdays at 6pm |
| **Sacramento City Council**  [www.cityofsacramento.org](http://www.cityofsacramento.org)  915 I St., Sac (First floor chambers) 916-808-5407  Meetings: First and third Mondays at 5:30pm | **Sacramento Municipal Utilities District**  [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org)  6201 S Street, Sac 452-3211  Meetings: Tuesdays and Wednesdays (call for times) |
| **Rancho Cordova City Council**  [www.cityofranchocordova.org](http://www.cityofranchocordova.org)  2729 Prospect Park Dr., RC 851-8720  Meetings: First and third Mondays at 5:30pm | **Carmichael Water District**  [www.carmichaelwd.org](http://www.carmichaelwd.org)  7837 Fair Oaks Blvd, Carmichael 483-2454  Call for meeting days and times |

**Some Advise**

* Wear appropriate attire
* Go in small groups of 2-4 people but be quiet and attentive during meetings
* Introduce yourself if it is appropriate and ask questions
* Obtain relevant handouts but you don’t need everything
* Bring something to take a photo (but ask before taking pictures)

**Local/State Government Project Verification Form**

**Louis Pasteur Fundamental Middle School**

Jason Brandt, 8th Grade Honors Civics Instructor – [jason.brandt@sanjuan.edu](mailto:Jason.brandt@sanjuan.edu)

The following student(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(student(s) to write in the names)

attended the meeting of:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(student inserts the name of the government agency/entity)

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Date

Verification Signature and Title

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (if possible)

**DUE DATES**

1st Semester

Proposal – September 27th

Final Project – December 13th

2nd Semester

Proposal – February 14th

Final Project – May 23rd

**Final Project Checkoff List**

\_\_\_\_ Typed summary of the meeting experience

\_\_\_\_ Agenda/handouts from the meeting attached (if possible)

\_\_\_\_ Photograph attached

\_\_\_\_ Signature verification (this sheet attached)