

American National Government
POL 140
Sections 3-6
Participation

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- Paper 1: Handing back today. Add +5 to your score. I will create a column in Blackboard with 5 points in it for those who submitted a paper.
- Paper 2: Posted to Blackboard. Get started early! If you have questions or problems, or want help stop by my office and I will help you. You are underutilizing me!



- Contractions...do not use
- I, you, we, our, my...do not use
- The (anti)federalist were right...because they said they were right.
- Period and commas
 - According to Lasswell, “politics is who gets what when and how.”
 - “Politics is who gets what, when and how” (Lasswell).
 - Harold Lasswell’s definition of politics, “who gets what, when and how,” is one of the most famous definitions of politics.
- Federalist vs federalism
- Take the cover sheet more seriously.
- When I tell you to take a side, take a side.
- Citations and common knowledge



- Political Participation
- Voting
- Other methods of participation
- Who Participates



Political Participation: Involvement in activities intended to influence public policy and leadership.

- What are some different methods of political participation?



Suffrage: The right to vote

- Originally just white, property-owning, males
- How have we expanded suffrage in the U.S.?



Voter Turnout: the proportion of the adult citizens who actually vote in elections.

- Approximately 55% in presidential election years
- Approximately 40% in midterm election/non-presidential election years
- Voter turnout tends to be much higher in other democratic countries. Why is voter turnout so low in the United States?
- How could we increase voter turnout?



- Why do we need to register to vote?
- Why would requiring people to vote decrease voter turnout?
- Are there some groups that are hurt more than others by registration?
- How has government tried to make it easier to register to vote?
- Should people be required to present photo identification to register and/or vote?

What leads people to vote: Demographics



- more education
- more income
- growing older



- more interested
 - **apathy:** a lack of interest in politics
- higher level of political efficacy
 - **political efficacy:** A belief that you can influence public policy.
- greater sense of civic duty
 - **civic duty:** a belief that one ought to participate in public affairs

Is voting rational?



- Is your vote likely to change the outcome of an election?
- Are the benefits of voting greater than the costs?
- What are the benefits and costs of voting?
- Varies by state in presidential election.

Other Forms of Participation



	Presidential Election Year	Midterm Year
Voted		
Tried to influence others		
Contributed money to political party or candidate		
Attend a political meeting or rally		
Worked for a party or candidate		

Other Forms of Participation



	Presidential Election Year	Midterm Year
Voted	57	42
Tried to influence others	32	20
Contributed money to political party or candidate	10	9
Attend a political meeting or rally	8	8
Worked for a party or candidate	4	5

Other Forms of Participation



	Percent Taking Part
Sign a petition	
Attended a public meeting on town or school affairs	
Written your congressman or senator	
Attended a political rally or speech	
Written a letter to the paper	
Made a speech	
Written an article for a magazine or newspaper	

Other Forms of Participation



	Percent Taking Part
Sign a petition	35
Attend a public meeting on town or school affairs	18
Written your congressman or senator	15
Attended a political rally or speech	9
Written a letter to the paper	5
Made a speech	5
Written an article for a magazine or newspaper	2



In what ways has the internet changed participation?



- What are some of the ways people can participate in politics within their community?
- How does community participation differ from electoral participation?
Social Capital: the sum of face-to-face interactions among citizens in a society.
- Why is social capital important?
- Why is social capital declining?
- Has Facebook helped social capital?



Social Movements: Collectivities (groups) acting with some degree of organization and continuity outside of institutional or organizational channels for the purpose of changing public policy.

- Is the Tea Party a social movement?
- Is Occupy Wall Street a social movement?
- Was the Civil Rights Movement a social movement?
- What methods do these groups use?



- Chapter 7 quiz is due by next class period