

Mann-Smith Campaign Finance Debate Group # _____

Presentation #2 Period _____

Group members _____

Assignment Date _____ Presentation Date _____

Group # _____ will debate Group # _____ on the issue
Resolved: Reform is necessary in the American campaign finance system.

Group # _____ will defend the resolution, using arguments and analysis from
Thomas Mann's posts in the Los Angeles Times "Campaign Finance Dust-Up."

Group # _____ will negate the proposition using arguments and analysis from
Bradley Smith's posts in the Los Angeles Times "Campaign Finance Dust-Up."

Group Mann will have 15 minutes to outline the concepts supporting campaign finance reform. Group Smith will have 15 minutes to respond. Both groups will need to read ALL POSTS in order to fully respond to each other. Each group should not only give summaries of their own side, but should also link to ideas from the opposing writer.

Group Mann should consider the following:

1. Explain the controversy over "sham issue" ads.
2. What happened in the *Wisconsin Right to Life* case as a result of this controversy?
3. Explain the view of campaign finance regulation outside the U.S.
4. What are Mann's suggestions to regulate campaign finance without offending the 1st amendment?
5. What are the problems with totally deregulating campaign contributions?
6. Discuss the McCain-Feingold Campaign Finance law (Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002) and how it relates to these posts.

Group Smith should consider the following:

1. What was the real basis of the *Wisconsin Right to Life* challenge?
2. Explain Smith's view of campaign finance and the 1st amendment.
3. Explain Smith's argument that campaign contribution limits do not lead to better government.
4. Explain Smith's "Patriot II Act" argument.
5. What are the problems with contribution limits?
6. Discuss *Citizens United vs. FEC* (2010) and how it relates to these posts.