

## Semester 1 Capstone: Model Senate

**What it is:** Students will adopt and play the role of a particular senator. Acting as this senator, students will draft a bill, debate legislation on the Senate floor, engage in the committee process, and attempt to pass the bill using processes that resemble American legislative procedure.

**Why we're doing this:** You will be required to use many of the skills we have acquired over the course of the first semester and apply them in an intense two-week prep period leading up to the event. These skills include writing, persuasive argument, an understanding of the Constitution, our system of checks and balances, and in-depth knowledge of the problems our country is currently facing. You will need a strong grasp of these skills to succeed in Model Senate.

### **Issues we will be studying:**

- **Climate Change** - The International Panel on Climate Change released a report last week that was its most urgent plea to date that governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The President can and has taken some actions through executive order. But comprehensive action will require Congress to get in the game.
- **Immigration Reform** - There is broad consensus between business, labor, and human rights groups that comprehensive immigration reform would help the economy, help families, and help security. What's the holdup? We'll step into this issue as senators and see if we can crack this nut.

\*\*\* Although most Senators will be required to draft bills, we will select two strong bills to debate on the Senate floor, one from each category.

### **Logistics:**

- The US Senate uses Robert's Rules as procedural norms. You may remember these from MUN.
- You will be assigned a Senator, and/or Executive through a semi-electoral process.
- You will be required to write, act, and argue as if you were that Senator
- **Honors:** Honors students will be required to take specific roles given their challenging and demanding nature. Such roles may include the Executive (Obiden), High ranking or uniquely positioned Senators, firebrands, and experts/lobbyists selected to testify during committee hearings.

### **When and where it will happen:**

- **Date:** Thursday, December 11, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Location:** Noble Hall, Fort Lewis College (tentative)
- **Formal dress required**

**Committees:** We will have 2 committees – the Senate Natural Resources Committee and Senate Committee for Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

**Evaluation:** Bill Making Quiz, Climate Change Quiz, Immigration Quiz, Senate Sports Card, Senate Bill, Senate Speeches