First assignment

Come to the next class meeting (September 12) prepared to give a 3–to–5 minute political introduction to your home congressional district and your current member of Congress.

The presentation should include information about the following items:

- **The salient political characteristics of the district**
  - Geographic location
  - Location of large cities and economic regions
  - Ethnic or other demographic blocs that are politically relevant
  - Districting history (especially, what is the difference between the current and the new congressional district?)
  - What political, economic, or social trends might change the incumbent’s chances in the future?

- **The salient political background of the incumbent**
  - When was s/he first elected and what was her or his political background?
  - How electorally secure is the incumbent?
  - Where does the incumbent’s primary political support come from?
  - Who did the incumbent run against in 2014, how competitive was the election, and what issues (if any) formed the core of the campaign?

- **The institutional activity of the incumbent**
  - What committee(s) and/or leadership positions does the incumbent hold?
  - What issues does the incumbent focus on in Congress?
  - How visible nationally is the incumbent in national policy issues?

- **The political future of the district**

The best source of information for this assignment can be found in the current editions of the *Almanac of American Politics* or *Politics in America.*