THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT IN U.S. POLITICS Term Project Instructions

PLS 292

- Step 1: In the Rozell and Wilcox anthology, read
 - Chapter 1, and
 - the chapter that analyzes the state you have targeted, and
 - Chapter 12.
- Step 2: Go to various web sites listed below and collect information about the role of the religious right in your target state in the 1998 elections. Compare this information to the 1994 and 1996 election data and analyses that are given in your state's chapter in Rozell and Wilcox. Organize your research by using the following outline:
- I. Religious-right organizations in your state:
 - A. Go to the web site for each of the eight major Christian-Right organizations listed in the handout for Wilcox's chapter 4 and see if there is information about state and/or local chapters in your state. Record information about state and local
 - 1. Leaders
 - 2. Activists
 - 3. Mass support
 - B. Go to the news-media web sites listed below and print out any information about election activities of Christian-Right organizations in your state in 1998, e.g., distribution of voter guides. Be sure to look for religious-right organizations that may have operated in your state that are separate from the "big eight" organizations that Wilcox discusses.
 - http://abcnews.go.com/sections/us/elections98/elections98_intro.html
 - http://www.crp.org/1998elect/index.htm
 - http://www.foxnews.com/national/features/election98/
 - http://www.webwhiteblue.org/
 - http://www.aol.com/mynews/news/election98.adp
 - http://cnn.com/election/1998/
 - http://legislators.com/c-span/returns.html
 - http://www.msnbc.com/news/electionresults front.asp
 - http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/elections98.htm
 - http://www.newspaperlinks.com/
- II. Counter mobilization by opposition groups in your state:
 - A. Go to the web site for each of the four major groups opposed to the Christian Right and see if there is information about the 1998 election in your state.
 - B. Go to the web site for each of the following Christian-Left organizations to see if there are reports of campaign activities in your state:
 - 1. Call to Renewal http://www.calltorenewal.com/
 - 2. Interfaith Alliance http://www.tialliance.org/
 - 3. Evangelicals for Social Action http://www.bullitt.org/esa.htm/
 - C. Do the same for the news-media web sites listed above.
- III. 1998 election politics in your state
 - A. Go to the news-media web sites and print information on:
 - 1. Which major offices on the ballot were of interest to the Christian Right?
 - 2. Were there any referendum issues of interest to the Christian Right on the ballot in your state?
 - 3. Candidate recruitment were there any "self-starting" Christian-Right candidates?
 - 4. Were there any nomination politics controversies involving the religious right pragmatists and purists?
 - 5. Did the Christian Right sit out or actively participate in the general-election politics? How does this compare to 1994 and 1996 in your state?
 - 6. General-election results -- make sure to print out any and all exit-poll results that show how Christian-Right voters cast their ballots. Compare to 1994 and 1996 exit poll results.
 - B. Print out post-election analyses offered on both Christian-Right and opposing organization web sites
- IV. Conclusions: Christian Right strengths and weaknesses in your state's 1998 election

- Step 3: Using the MS-Word[©] report template that I will email to you, type an initial draft of the report. Use the spell-checker to correct mis-spellings. Show this work to me.
- Step 4: Get at least one of your class mates to critique your report. Make final corrections. Print out a clean copy of your report and turn it in to me.
- **Free error–checking is available until 20 April 1999.** Print your report so that you can let me error–check your report at each stage of the process. *Note that I will not have the time to read all of anyone's report at the last minute before the projects are due.*

RULES FOR CAPITALIZING

- Be sure your project's title on the title page is in *all* capital letters. Everything else on the title page should be in *headline* caps.
- Main headings and table titles should be in all capital letters. Subheadings should be in headline caps.
- Also use headline capitalization rules in the *titles* and *subtitles* in your references.
- Under headline capitalization rules --
 - *Capitalize*: the first word in the *title*, the first word in the *subtitle*, and all words that are major terms -- nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs.
 - *Do not capitalize* articles, conjunctions, or prepositions in titles *unless* they are the first word of the title or subtitle. If you don't know whether a word is an article, conjunction, or preposition *look it up in a dictionary*.

RULES FOR PUNCTUATING

- Commas and semicolons are followed by *one* space. Periods and colons are followed by *two* spaces except where:
 - the period is used to indicate an abbreviation that does not end a sentence or major field,
 - the colon is used in the *vol:page* field of references to articles in journals.

PREPARATION OF FINAL COPY

- Submit one laser–print copy.
- Remove any *blank* pages that the laser printer may insert in your research report.
- *Align* the pages before stapling them together. Use *one* staple in the top left–hand corner preferably at a 45 degree angle to the top and side.
- Do *not* use a binder.
- **Deadline is 5 pm, Tuesday, 27 April 1999 in my office SB–214B.** There is a letter grade (10 point) penalty for each day (not just week day) a project is turned in late past the deadline