



Chapter 1: American Political Culture

Electronic Assignment — Applying the Lasswell Model

Harold Lasswell defined politics as "who gets what and how." On the following page, you will find a descriptive listing of those criteria that make up the Lasswell Model and the manner in which government is influenced.

You are to find a recent news article from the [Course Media Page](#). Peruse the media links and select one news article which touches on the impact of government, using the definition of *politics* as defined by Lasswell. Prepare a brief 150-word, four paragraph report of your news item. Your brief report should contain a "Summary" which is a summary of the news article you are referencing. It should contain a paragraph describing the "Who", a paragraph describing the "What" and finally, a paragraph describing the "How". A sample of the report can be found attached to this assignment.

This assignment is worth 100 pts. In order for you to receive the maximum score possible, you must type your work product, double-spaced. It must contain the minimum 150 words and must contain the correct citation for your online source, as taken from the Course Media Page. *No other references are permitted.*

Course Media Page: <http://www.cathedral-elpaso.org/government/us/media/>

WHO (Participants)	<i>gets</i>	WHAT (Values)	<i>and</i>	HOW (Methods)
Individuals		Deference		Platforms
Candidates		Prestige		Campaigns
Officeholders		Recognition		Speeches
Supporters		Influence		Rallies
Voters		Access		Public Relations
Groups		Jobs		Media exposure
Affluent		Public Office		Registration
Poor		Contracts		Voting
Elderly		Acceptance		Campaign contributions
Whites		Justice		Lobbying
Hispanics		Fair play		Coalition formation
Women		Public policy		Bargaining
Business		Status Quo		Compromise
Labor		Public Interest		Logrolling
Protestants				Intimidation
Jews		Broad advantages for oneself or for one's		Bribery
Farmers		group		Violence
Gunowners				Expanding the Conflict
Universities				
Public Educators				
Organizations			WHEN	
AFL-CIO		Immediately		
National Assn of Manufacturers		Later		
American Assn of Retired Persons				
American Legion				
American G.I. Forum				
Natl. Organization for Women				
Democratic Party				
Republican Party				
Labor				

POLITICS — who gets what, when and how. This simplified picture of the Lasswell Model focuses on only some of the possible participants, their values, and their methods. But the questions remain the same: Who participates? What do they want? How and when do they get it?

Breakfast brings Texas delegation together

By David LaGesse
Washington Bureau of The Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON - Democrats and Republicans put aside their partisan differences Wednesday, at least briefly, as the Texas congressional delegation gathered for breakfast.

"We remain the state with the strongest delegation in working together," said Rep. Martin Frost, D-Dallas, as he left the meeting in the offices of Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas.

Mr. Frost was soon followed by House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Irving. Sure, Mr. Armey said, he and Mr. Frost campaigned hard against each other's party last fall, but that doesn't mean the two sides can't draw together now.

"You put on one hat one day and another hat another day," Mr. Armey said. "I don't see why that should be difficult for anyone."

The delegation didn't try to set an agenda at the meeting, freshmen members who attended and were allowed to express their wish lists.

They mentioned border-area needs such as highways, bridges and wastewater plants, as well as continued concerns about military installations, NASA and education.

Partisan divisions in Congress have yet to undermine the delegation, members said. "I haven't seen them yet," said Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Dallas.

Then again, more than politics can divide a large state like Texas. Roads to Mexico could create geographic friction as two highways vie for designation as the main route. One, the proposed Interstate 69, would pass through Houston; the other, 1-35, passes through Dallas.

Still, the Texas delegation has a reputation for pulling together more than other large states such as California and New York.

Just last year, concerned House members - including Democrats - worked with Republican Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas to fight a welfare-funding formula that threatened to hurt the state, said Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston.

The delegation's support can be an asset to new members, said Rep. Nick Lampson, D-Beaumont. "As a freshman, I can't expect to particulate in a lot of legislation," he said. "But I'll be watching out for my district."

The Texas delegation has traditionally met at various sites for a monthly lunch but Wednesday agreed to switch to breakfasts in members' offices.

SUMMARY: The article above discusses how the Texas delegation of U.S. Senators and Representatives meet monthly for breakfast to discuss concerns and priorities for the state of Texas as legislation is proposed in Congress. They hope to put aside their partisan differences and keep the interests of Texas first. This meeting has been a tradition for the Texas delegation and has resulted, as the article indicates, "in a reputation for pulling together more than other large states . . ."

WHO: The Texas delegation of elected U.S. Senators and Representatives

WHAT: To see that Texas is treated fairly and considered when Congress works on legislation.

HOW: Monthly breakfast in each of the members' offices, hoping to put aside their partisan differences and talking, bargaining, and compromising with each other.