Library Resources for POS 2041 – Prof. Duncan

Researching the Impact of Industries on the Political Process

Library Homepage: http://www.valenciacc.edu/library/west

Use this help sheet with Video Tutorials 1-5 (links located on page 2).

Video Tutorial #1. Finding Articles Online / Academic OneFile

How to Log In to Library Databases:
From the Library Homepage, click on Articles in Databases.
Borrower ID = Number on the back of your Student ID card.
PIN = Last 4 digits of your VID number.

Academic OneFile
- Good place to begin research on the industry background, legislation, Supreme Court cases, and interest groups.
- The video tutorial shows how to use the “Browse” feature. Click Browse Subjects, and type in your industry name. (Include the word “industry.”)
- A list of possible subjects will appear. Find your industry, if it is listed, and click on it.
- The main subject (your industry) can be broken down into subdivisions. By showing the subdivisions, you can get just those articles that deal with particular aspects of your industry. For example: cases; laws, rules and regulations; or political activity.
- Choose the subdivision that most closely matches the part of the project you are researching. You’ll get a listing of articles on that subject. Select articles to read and e-mail to yourself for later.

Video Tutorial #2. CQ Researcher
- Another good place to begin your research on industry background, legislation, Supreme Court cases, and interest groups.
- Important: This database is all about ISSUES. When you search for your industry, you’ll get a list of issues that mention or pertain to your industry.
- This is helpful because major social issues often lead to changes in legislation, court cases, and interest group activity.
- Select an issue related to your industry and read carefully to find references to people, legislations, court cases, and organizations. Keep a running list of these important terms. Share your list with your group.

Video Tutorial #3. LexisNexis
- LexisNexis is primarily a newspaper database, so this is where to look for examples of your industry (and related issues) in current and past events.
- New legislation, Supreme Court cases, and interest group activity are frequently the subjects of news reports!
- Use the NEWS tab for an easier search. For each key word you enter, use the drop-down box below to limit your search to Headline, Lead Paragraphs and Indexing.
- Expand the “Show” menu to select your industry from a list, if it’s there.
- Adjust the date range as appropriate. For Supreme Court, you may need quite a long date range.
Video Tutorial #4. Supreme Court Collection

- If you are working on the Supreme Court cases segment, this is a good place to find out more about the cases you have read about.
- You can either type your industry name to find cases that mention your industry, or type the name of a case you know of to find a summary of it.
- Choose specific document types and select “case summaries” for this search.
- Remember that a case can impact your industry without ever mentioning your industry in the case summary!
  For example, a case dealing with the NFL’s merchandising might not use the words “sports industry” or “professional sports” anywhere in the case summary.

Video Tutorial #5. OpenSecrets.org

- This is the most useful resource if you are working on Election Campaign Contributions. It’s also very helpful for information on Interest Groups.
- Scroll down the homepage and click on Industry Profiles to start. Select the industry that is closest to yours.
- Note that the page that comes up is labeled “Interest Groups.” That’s because many industries contribute to campaigns through Interest Groups that work on their behalf and represent their interests.
- The first page that comes up is a summary. View the tabs across the top of the page for more details on contributors and recipients.
- Use government web sites like Senate.gov (shown in the video tutorial) to look up the government officials you see topping the lists on OpenSecrets. When you read their bios, you may see possible reasons why this industry supported their campaign.
- Or do the opposite – use OpenSecrets to look up specific government officials you or your group-mates have read about. Example: the person doing legislation notes that Senator Smith sponsored a bill that greatly benefits your industry. It might be interesting to see how much money Senator Smith received from your industry last election year!

For Additional Help, contact the library:
By phone: 407-582-1432
Online, live chat or e-mail: www.askalibrarian.org
In person: Library 2nd floor, 6-201

Use these links to connect to the online video tutorials:

http://websflash.valenciacc.edu/videoPlayer.html?appl=Political_Science&inst=POS2041&vid=mp4:Duncan_Industries_1
http://websflash.valenciacc.edu/videoPlayer.html?appl=Political_Science&inst=POS2041&vid=mp4:Duncan_Industries_02
http://websflash.valenciacc.edu/videoPlayer.html?appl=Political_Science&inst=POS2041&vid=mp4:Duncan_Industries_03
http://websflash.valenciacc.edu/videoPlayer.html?appl=Political_Science&inst=POS2041&vid=mp4:Duncan_Industries_05

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