**1. Themes and Ideas Presented in the Movie: NOT FOR A GRADE**

The following are a list of questions or ideas that come up in the movie. You will respond to each item to the best of your abilities. Don’t worry about getting a “right” answer. For many of the issues presented there is no “right” answer. I want your personal opinion, your gut reaction. Tell me what you think. This part is also open ended. That means that there could be other issues that are in the movie that I may not have thought of.

1. What do you think is the role of government in society?
2. Do you think our government cares about you?
3. How are minorities represented in the movie?
4. How are women represented in the movie?
5. Do you have a problem with the way Smith seems to talk about issues of the nation being only for boys or men?
6. How do you feel about Smith?
7. How do you feel about a. Taylor b. Paine c. Saunders d. Diz or the other reporters?
8. Are there honest people in politics?
9. What is the difference between compromise and sacrificing your morals and integrity?
10. Do you see *cynicism* in this movie? If so where and by whom?
11. What is idealism? Is there a difference between idealism and simply being naive?
12. What about the notion of “Public Opinion” can the media control public opinion?
13. How powerful do you think the media is in influencing politics?
14. Are Paine, Taylor and their friends evil?
15. Compare the race, age and sex of the Senators in this film with the ones of today. How different are they?
16. Do you admire Jeff Smith or is he just going too far? Is he a corny dope or a hero?
17. How much of a difference can one person make in the world?
18. Do you think something like this can happen today?
19. Did you like the movie? Why or why not?
20. Analyze the following quote from Smith as he begins to write his bill about the boys camp:

“You see, boys forget what their country means by just reading The Land of the Free in history books. Then they get to be men they forget even more. Liberty's too precious a thing to be buried in books, Miss Saunders. Men should hold it up in front of them every single day of their lives and say: I'm free to think and to speak. My ancestors couldn't, I can, and my children will. Boys ought to grow up remembering that.”

**2. EXTRA CREDIT Questions to Help Guide You Through the Movie**

Below are some questions that follow along in order with the movie. Do your best to answer them as we come to each question. However, if you miss an answer, move on. In many cases you can answer the question by listening to later events.

1. Who does Senator Paine tell the Governor to call?
2. What are Taylor and Paine worried about?
3. Who owns the land around Willet Creek?
4. Why do Taylor and Paine want Horace Miller to be the next Senator?
5. Why do the Governor’s children like Smith?
6. Why do Taylor and Paine think Smith is OK?
7. How does Smith feel about his appointment to the Senate?
8. How do Jeff Smith and his father feel about lost causes?
9. What happened to Smith’s father?
10. Describe the women smith meets in the station.
11. What are some nicknames that Jeff Smith gets when he comes to Washington D.C.?
12. What does Smith do when he gets to Washington D.C.?
13. As Smith tours Washington, what images are shown on the screen?
14. Do you notice a difference between Smith’s attitude and those who have been in Washington D.C.? What is it?
15. What is Diz’s job?
16. What is Saunders’ job?
17. What does the reporter with the glasses promise Saunders if she gets him an interview with Smith?
18. What is Smith’s idea that he wants to write a bill for?
19. How did the reporters make Smith look?
20. What does Paine want Saunders to do with Smith?
21. How does Paine react when Saunders mentions Willet Creek?
22. According to the boy who shows Smith to his desk what is the way to get re-elected?
23. What do you think Paine’s goal is politically?
24. Look at the Senate. How would you describe the age, sex and race of the Senators?
25. What do the men of the press club tell Smith?
26. How does Paine react when Smith tells him he wants to be informed about the bills?
27. Why do you think Smith wants a boys camp? Do you think girls would be allowed?
28. Where does he want to build it?
29. Why doe Paine jump when Smith introduces his bill concerning Willet Creek?
30. How does the Senate react as Smith begins to speak?
31. Why does Paine not want Smith in the Senate when the deficiency bill (concerning Willet Creek) is discussed?
32. What does Saunders think is going to happen to Smith?
33. What happens when Paine tries to disagree with Taylor?
34. What has Taylor done for Paine?
35. What businesses does Taylor own in Smith’s state?
36. What does Taylor offer smith in return for his cooperation?
37. Where does Paine say Smith has been “living?”
38. What does Paine say you have to “check at the door?”
39. What is Paine’s word for checking your ideals?
40. Why does Paine think compromise is good?
41. What does Paine suggest Smith do when the bill comes up for a vote?
42. What happens when Smith tries to speak out in the Senate?
43. How do the people treat Smith?
44. What does the investigative committee reveal about Smith?
45. Why would the “Taylor Machine” create these lies about Smith’s involvement in the Willet Creek scam?
46. What do you think Saunders means when she says, “they aren’t all Taylors and Paines. They just throw big shadows”?
47. What does Saunders want Smith to do?
48. In the Senate, why was it important that Smith be recognized to speak first?
49. Why does Pain speak so forcefully against Smith?
50. What does Taylor say about “Public Opinion?”
51. What does Taylor instruct the newspapers and other media in his state to say about Smith?
52. How is Taylor using the media?
53. What happens when people try to print the truth or “voice” their support for Jeff Smith?
54. What do you think about how the media can be controlled by a single person to be used for their own benefit?
55. How long had Smith been speaking?
56. Why do you think Paine did what he did in the end?

**3. Directions for the Final Project -**

As a culminating event you will complete a final project that brings together your ideas and thoughts regarding the issues and lessons that came from this movie. You have two options for the final project:

**Option 1- ESSAY**

You may write an essay of at least 3 pages concerning the issues presented in “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.” This essay should be the standard form (typed, Times New Roman 12pt font, 1.5 spacing) with an introduction, body and conclusion. Do **NOT** simply summarize the movie. I have seen it enough times. I want you to discuss a theme in the movie. You must tie it back to the legislative branch. You must include 3 things we’ve learned about the Legislative branch. There should be a clear thesis and arguments supported with evidence from the film. For example, you might discuss race, gender, political efficacy, the role of the media or political socialization and the legislative branch in the movie. Or you could compare Mr. Smith and Mr. Paine to our 2 senators from Georgia.

**Option 2- ORIGINAL ART OR POSTER**

Design and create an original poster dealing with themes from the movie. This poster must be larger than 2 notebook sheets of paper. None of the poster can be done in pencil. It must look like you put effort into it. For example, you could create a campaign poster or a collage or a poster either supporting/attacking/poking fun at Smith. You must tie it back to the legislative branch. You must include 3 things we’ve learned about the Legislative branch. You will then create a 1-page artist statement (typed, Times New Roman 12pt font, 1.5 spacing) explaining how your piece connects to the themes of the film.

PROJECTS ARE DUE **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1**