Lesson Plan

Pursuing Politics

Book: *Tammy Duckworth*
Series: Groundbreaking Women in Politics
Level: Voyager

Objective
To help students build understanding of political parties and systems and the vocabulary used to describe them.

Supplies
- *Tammy Duckworth* book
- Pursuing Politics Guided Reading Assignment (attached)
- Pencils

Before the Activity
Read the *Tammy Duckworth* book as a class, or assign it to students to read on their own. Print a copy of the Pursuing Politics GRA for each student.

Activity
Pass out the Pursuing Politics GRA to the class. Explain that the GRA has a list of questions based on specific pages from the *Tammy Duckworth* book. Students should write an answer to each question in the space below it.

Evaluation
Use the attached answer key to award 1 point for each correct answer, or 12 points total.

Standards
This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 6 (RI 6.3, 6.4), and the National Council for Social Studies' Standard 6.

Pursuing Politics Guided Reading Assignment

Pages 5–6 describe the two major political parties in the United States.
- What views and policies does the Democratic Party support?

- What views and policies does the Republican Party support?

- According to the book's glossary, what does the word *conservative* mean?

- According to the book's glossary, what does the word *liberal* mean?

Pages 31–32 describe the two chambers of the US Congress.
- How many members are in the US House of Representatives, and how long are their terms?

- How many members are in the US Senate, and how long are their terms?

- According to the book, which chamber is known as the upper house?

- Why might members of this chamber be considered more influential or more important?

Pages 36–37 describe the process members of Congress use to create legislation.

- What is a bill?

- What is a committee?

- At what point in the lawmaking process does a delay often happen?

- How might the number of bills passed reflect a politician's success?

Pursuing Politics GRA Answer Key

Pages 5–6 describe the two major political parties in the United States.
- What views and policies does the Democratic Party support?
  liberal views and greater government involvement, especially for people in need

- What views and policies does the Republican Party support?
  conservative views and limited government, especially for economic policies

- According to the book's glossary, what does the word *conservative* mean?
  supporting traditional views or values, often resisting changes

- According to the book's glossary, what does the word *liberal* mean?
  supporting changes to traditional views or values to allow greater freedoms

Pages 31–32 describe the two chambers of the US Congress.
- How many members are in the US House of Representatives, and how long are their terms?
  435 members that serve 2-year terms

- How many members are in the US Senate, and how long are their terms?
  100 members that serve 6-year terms

- According to the book, which chamber is known as the upper house?
  the Senate

- Why might members of this chamber be considered more influential or more important?
  The smaller number of senators means each one has more influence, and the longer terms mean senators can influence more decisions.

Pages 36–37 describe the process members of Congress use to create legislation.

- What is a bill?
  a written plan to create or change a law

- What is a committee?
  a smaller group of senators that a bill must pass through before going to the whole group for a vote

- At what point in the lawmaking process does a delay often happen?
  Many bills get stuck being reviewed by committees for a long time.

- How might the number of bills passed reflect a politician's success?
  Passing many bills might show that a senator is focusing on the right issues, that the senator works well with other lawmakers, or that the senator has good solutions to problems.