**How does money impact an election? Name:**

***Part 1: Define Key Vocabulary in your own words***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Soft Money** |  |
| **Hard Money** |  |
| **Lobbyist** |  |
| **Political Action Committee (PAC)** |  |
| **SuperPAC** |  |
| **Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) of 1972** |  |
| **McCain-Feingold Law** |  |
| **Federal Election Commission** |  |
| **Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission** |  |

***Part 2: Video segment, “Dollars & Votes: 2012 Election” ( PBS )***

<http://tinyurl.com/Dollarsandvotes2012>

**Describe the type of organizations expected to spend the most money in the 2012 election.**

**Describe the balance Congress has to find when passing campaign reform legislation.**

**\*HONORS ONLY: Explain why it might be an advantage to Super PACs to not have to disclose their donor list.**

***Part 3 Follow the Money: OpenSecrets.org***

<http://www.opensecrets.org/pres16/>

*Research the candidates’ campaign financing, using information found on the website OpenSecrets.org.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Democrat***:  HILLARY CLINTON | ***Republican***:  DONALD TRUMP |
| **Total $ amount raised** |  |  |
| **% or $ contributed by candidate (self-financing)** |  |  |
| **% or $ contributed by individuals – small (avg. less than $200 per donor)** |  |  |
| **% or $ contributed by individuals – large (up to $2500 per donor)** |  |  |
| **% or $ contributed by PACs** |  |  |

***Look at the SuperPAC donor infographic:*** <http://www.opensecrets.org/pres16/superpacs.php>

***List the top 3 recipients of donations given to single-candidate super PACs supporting 2016 White House hopefuls:***

***#1 #2 #3***

***Look at the 2012 campaign finance:***

Here <http://www.opensecrets.org/pres12/> or here <http://elections.nytimes.com/2012/campaign-finance>

| **2012 CAMPAIGN** | **OBAMA** | **ROMNEY** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Total $ amount raised |  |  |
| % or $ contributed by candidate (self-financing) |  |  |
| % or $ contributed by individuals (total small and large) |  |  |
| % or $ contributed by PACs |  |  |
| List the top two contributors by name (Note: contributions made via the organizations PAC) | #1  #2 | #1  #2 |
| List the top two contributing states |  |  |

**HONORS ONLY:**

**Based on the data collected, respond to the following questions in complete sentences:**

1. Is there a correlation to the *amount* of money raised and the winner of the election? Explain.
2. Is there a correlation to the donor *source (individual donors vs PAC)* and the winner of the election? Explain.
3. Should private companies, corporations, and labor unions be able to give as much money as they wish to support candidates sympathetic to their interests? Support your position.