

# iGoogle meets \_\_\_\_\_ --The Model Citizen

## **Overview:**

What are the responsibilities of a citizen? Voting, jury duty, civic participation (community involvement) and political participation (working a campaign, running for office, contacting representatives, testifying, etc). What other elements would you add?

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What is the common denominator to be successful in all of these areas? BEING INFORMED!!!!!!!

## **Objectives: Students will:**

- Create an iGoogle homepage focused specifically on being an informed citizen
- Review a number of online news sites and choose a minimum of FIVE to be “gadgets” on your iGoogle homepage
- Choose gadgets and RSS feeds that are specific to a students’ political and civic interests
- Complete a written rationale for each gadget that is on the iGoogle homepage

## **Directions:**

1. *If you already have a gmail account skip to step TWO.* Create a gmail account account--go to <http://mail.google.com/> and create a new account (click on the link create an account now).
2. Create a new iGoogle homepage by
  - Open your gmail account
  - Click on the link “web” at the top of the page and follow the prompts
3. Review news sites, political sites, political satire sites, community sites, special interest sites, etc. Once you find sites you like, make sure they have the ability to add an RSS feed and add them to your page.
4. Add/browse gadgets by clicking “add stuff” in the right hand part of your theme banner (upper right hand part of page). There are some good NEWS sites in the google gadgets
5. Complete the iGoogle rationale sheet as you go

## **Grading (30pts):**

- iGoogle page (10 pts) — must show teacher
- iGoogle gadget rationales (20 points)

**Librarians' Internet Index: Websites you can Trust—search by subject to find reputable websites on special interests** <http://lii.org/> and <http://vlib.org/>

## **Newspapers, Television and Radio**

The New York Times (requires free registration) [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

The Washington Post [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

Al Jazeera <http://english.aljazeera.net/>

Christian Science Monitor [www.csmonitor.com/](http://www.csmonitor.com/)

Anchorage Daily News [www.adn.com/](http://www.adn.com/)

Fairbanks Daily Newsminer <http://newsminer.com/>

Alaska Public Radio <http://aprn.org/>

BBC <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

NPR [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)

CNN [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)

MSNBC [www.msnbc.com](http://www.msnbc.com)

ABC News <http://abcnews.go.com/>

CBS News <http://www.cbsnews.com/>

FOX News <http://www.foxnews.com/>

## **Magazines**

Atlantic Monthly online [www.theatlantic.com/](http://www.theatlantic.com/)

Time Magazine [www.time.com/time](http://www.time.com/time)

US News and World Report [www.usnews.com/usnews/home.htm](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/home.htm)

The Economist <http://www.economist.com/>

Newsweek <http://www.newsweek.com/id/30166>

The American Conservative <http://www.amconmag.com/>

National Review <http://www.nationalreview.com/>

Huffington Post <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/>

## **Political Sites**

Foreign Affairs Magazine [www.foreignaffairs.org/index.asp](http://www.foreignaffairs.org/index.asp)

CSPAN's American Politics [www.cspan.org/](http://www.cspan.org/)

State News & Politics [www.stateline.org](http://www.stateline.org)

Alaska Legislature [www.alaskalegislature.com/](http://www.alaskalegislature.com/)

Researching politics on the web [www.lib.lfc.edu/resource/politics/pol221.html](http://www.lib.lfc.edu/resource/politics/pol221.html)

The Supreme Court

White House [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

On Politics - includes polls and political articles from the Washington Post

[www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/polls/polls.htm](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/polls/polls.htm)

Factcheck <http://www.factcheck.org/>

Track Congress <http://www.govtrack.us/>

CQ Politics (everything politics) <http://www.cqpolitics.com/>

Politifact <http://www.politifact.com>

Supreme Court blog (my favorite) <http://www.scotusblog.com/wp/>

National Review <http://www.nationalreview.com/>

Real Politics <http://www.realclearpolitics.com/>

## **Satire**

Cagle Cartoons <http://cagle.msnbc.com/politicalcartoons>

Boondocks [www.boondocksnet.com/index.html](http://www.boondocksnet.com/index.html)

(liberal bias, political cartoons and satire)

\*The Onion (satirical news) [www.theonion.com/](http://www.theonion.com/)