

# Library Instruction, freshmen and politics make great bedfellows! Library instruction and critical thinking skills in a class project on the elections

## Who?

Instruction Librarians, University Studies Seminar Coordinators and 900 Freshmen at Montana State University-Bozeman. The University Studies Seminar class is designed to offer an introduction to college writing and critical thinking skills.

## When?

The fall 2012 semester.

## Where?

Library Instruction Sessions held in Renne Library's Heathcote classroom.

## What?

We developed a course integrated final project consisting of an annotated bibliography and class presentation. The assignment gave students the option of researching a topic related to the election in detail or comparing two candidates' views on a topic of their choice. They could choose local, state or national issues or elections.

## Why?

To impact and expose librarians, the library and library resources to approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all incoming freshman at Montana State University-Bozeman.

## How?

We worked with the coordinators of the program to develop a class integrated assignment and schedule librarian instruction sessions to coincide with the project due dates.

## Results

We held approximately 50 Library Instruction sessions with over 30 instructors and reached 900 plus students. The feedback from students and faculty was overwhelming positive. Students regularly stated that learning about election issues inspired them to register and vote in the 2012 election.

