

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## WORKSHEET 1: A Matter of Age

What Can Young Elected Officials Contribute to the Political Landscape?

Directions: While watching the Charles Clymer video, complete the following table.

<b>What issues are particularly important to Clymer or his peers, according to this video?</b>	<b>Do you agree/disagree with this issue? Why or why not?</b>	<b>Do you believe that older elected officials might feel the same concerns about this issue?</b>
<i>(Ex.) Getting young people involved in the election process, not just as voters but as candidates.</i>	<i>I agree. In order for young people to feel compelled to vote, we must give them candidates that reflect not just their age, but their beliefs and concerns.</i>	<i>Older candidates are tapping into an entirely different constituency. It's not that they don't care about young people; it's just that the youth vote is small, so they direct their attention elsewhere.</i>

## WORKSHEET 2A: A Matter of Age

Directions: In pairs, search for young elected officials in local, state, or national government. Find one official to be the focus of your research. Below is a list of websites to help you get started.

*Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers State College of New Jersey*

<http://www.eagleton.rutgers.edu/programs/yppp/yelpreports.php> (Contains documents from the 2002 Young Elected Leaders Project (YELP), with general information about who and where YELs are.)

*People for the American Way—Young Elected Officials Network*

<http://www.yeonetwork.org> (this is a network for young progressive elected officials – click “About the YEO Network” then “About the Young Electeds” to read testimonials from **specific** Young Elected Officials)

*For information about national congressional leaders, this web site offers biographical and other information. [Individual states offer similar directories.]*

<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/congdir.tt> (Under “Congressional Demographics” the “Age Group” link provides a list of officials within each age group, ex. 30-39)

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/directories.htm> (Texas House of Representatives directory – you will need to look at the reps birthdays under the “Biographical Data” link)

<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/Senate/Members.htm> (Texas Senate directory - \* As of 2010 (the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature), the youngest Texas Senator is 38.)

## WORKSHEET 2B: A Matter of Age

### Young Elected Official Biographical Form

Directions: Using the elected official you have chosen from your research; fill out this biographical information form for a class presentation.

1. What is the name of your young elected official?
2. What is your official's age, state, and elected position?
3. How did your official become interested in politics?
4. Who (if anyone) mentored or served as a role model for your official? Was this person instrumental in getting your person interested in running for public office?
5. Which causes or issues does your official ally him/herself with? How did he/she become interested in these particular causes? Are these causes or issues that you have an interest in as well?
6. What political party is your official connected to, and are his/her causes and issues a part of that party's larger platform?
7. What intrigues you about the person you have chosen?

