**Essay 2 rubric**

* Candidate biography and career accomplishments = 1
* Candidate positions on issues = 1
  + Positions on 4 issues at least
* Evidence this person is running = 0.5
  + Where are they going
  + Where are they speaking
  + How much money are they raising
* What are experts saying? = 0.5
  + Are experts saying this person has a good chance of getting elected
* Your evaluation of the candidate’s potential = 1
  + Own opinion of whether or not I think this person will get elected
  + Take into account what everyone is saying and all the evidence available
  + Don’t just say “they are leading in the polls thus have a high chance of getting elected”
* Writing and grammar = 0.5

Wow factor = 0.5

Assigned candidate is **Jeb Bush**

Resources sites unbiased:

* Realclearpolitics.com
* Politico.com

Early life:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeb_Bush#Early_life_and_education>

Position on issues:

<https://jeb2016.com/>

* Tax policy:
  + Jeb wants to completely overhaul the tax code that has grown to monstrous proportions. He claims to want to go back to roughly the same tax rate that was present during the time of Reagan.
  + Wants to do this with 3 steps:
    - Lowering tax brackets from 7 to 3
    - Cutting back lobbyist favoritism
    - Limit industrial over-seas manufacturing by lowering state-side corporate tax rates
* Stance on ISIS
  + Strongly opposes the withdrawal of troops from the Middle East and thinks that a strong US force in the Middle East is necessary to bring ISIS to a halt.
* Border security
  + Believes that a stronger border security would be much more pivotal in the long run rather than focusing on the illegal immigrants already here in the US.
  + He believes this can be done through a bolstering in surveillance, requiring electronic background checks on borders, and cracking down on “sanctuary cities”
  + His views on immigration are definitely not as radical as Trumps
* Healthcare
  + Believes in repealing Obama-care in order to promote innovations, lower costs, and return power to the states

How he’s doing in the polls

* Based off of the polls from the last 6 months, Bush has experienced a steady decline from his beginning position at the top, not placing behind Trump, Carson, and Rubio. He was surpassed by Trump in the middle of July after holding steady as of early 2015.
* Bush seems to be experiencing drops from his initially high campaign fund-raising money. He is losing money from ads, and is now below Cruz, Carson, and Rubio in financials. His financial advisors were seen attacking Rubio’s tv ads, which they claim were subsidized by a donor that did not disclose the funds they donate. Bush’s ads haven’t had a large impact in the polls
* Bush and Trump have gone head to head several times in the debates, with Trump attacking Bush on a variety of issues, the most recent of which being not about Jeb himself, but his brother and the events of 9/11 which took place during his brother’s time in office.

Hunter Black

Doctor Johnson

P SC 1113-030

28 October 2015

Contender/Pretender

As a member of the Bush family, the name in and of itself carrying significant weight in the political world, Jeb Bush was considered to have a clear shot at claiming the presidency. In early polls and debates, it appeared as though this prediction would come true. However, as the Primaries and National Party Convention approach, Bush’s poll results have seen a steady decline as well as a rise in attacks from other Republican candidates such as Trump, causing many to jump ship and back Bush’s incumbents Donald Trump, Ben Carson, and Marco Rubio.

Being the son of former President George H. W. Bush, Jeb Bush was surrounded by politics at a very young age. After graduating from the University of Texas with a degree in Latin American Studies, he went on to work in real-estate for a period of time until his father began his campaign from presidency, at which time Jeb decided to volunteer to assist him in his campaigning efforts. In 1998 Jeb was elected as governor of Florida, a position he would hold for the next 8 years. During his time as governor, Bush implemented environmental protection policies, reforms to the schooling system to aid in promoting school choice and the issuance of vouchers, as well as evaluating and helping Medicaid recipients move to private systems. He decided to run in the 2016 presidential election officially in early-mid 2015.

During his time as a Republican candidate, Bush has been extremely active throughout the swing states, advancing through Iowa, New Hampshire, and his home state of Florida, making several appearances and speeches on his stances as well as running several political ad campaigns promoting his candidacy. His early fund-raising campaigns were incredibly successful, raising roughly 13 million dollars. These funds have seen a steady decline, however, as Bush’s political campaign advisors push out more and more political ads. He is supported by the super Pac *Right to Rise*, who have donated a substantial amount of his campaign funds. It is clear that he is attempting to boost his position in the invisible primary above his competitors who have seen steady increase in their own polling numbers, especially his main rival Trump. As seen by his most recent announcement on his stance on social security and Medicaid on October 27, he is still clearly in the running, and is not letting his decreasing poll numbers influence his enthusiasm to gain the Republican Party’s favor.

Additionally throughout his campaigning, Bush has stated clearly his stance on several major political and social issues, including his thoughts on the tax policy, his views on America’s involvement in ISIS, what he plans to do regarding border security, and his ideas on the current health care situation in the U.S. Regarding his thoughts on the tax policy, Bush has outlined a 3 step plan to completely revamp the current tax codes and policies, something which he states is a “tax code only an army of tax accountants and lobbyists could love”. This three step plan would lower the number of tax brackets, cut back on lobbyist favoritism, and limit the amount of outsourcing overseas. His views on foreign involvement with ISIS are similarly gung-ho, with a strong belief that the U.S. has an obligation to get involved overseas to put a stop to the terrorist activities that ISIS have been committing. His plans for border security, while not as radical as Trump’s plans, are nonetheless along the same lines. He believes in tighter patrols and technological use to increase security all along the border. Finally, Bush’s ideas on Obama-care and the current health care status of the U.S. are to phase out Obama-care, lowering costs of health care, and returning power to the states.

Taking into account Bush’s early on success and his strong stance on several key issues, one would think that he would be in good running in the polls. This is not the case however, as the most recent polls put Bush in 4th, behind Trump, Carson, and Rubio. Bush has claimed an average of 7 percent of the polls. Comparing this to the front runner of the Republican Party so far, Donald Trump, who has an average of 26.8 percent of the polls, Bush clearly has a lot of ground to cover before the primaries if he still wants a shot at gaining the nomination.

I personally believe that Jeb Bush still does of a shot at gaining said nomination, although his chances are dwindling every day. Considering his long background in the political world and his familial ties to two former presidents, as well as his stance as being a “toned down” version of Donald Trump, I believe that if Bush made some key moves in the swing states in the next couple of weeks that he could come out on top. Again, these chances are slim considering Trumps popularity in the media and his poll numbers, but it is not impossible.