1. What is the name of your website?

Hippol

2. What is the url for your website?

ruwenliu.scripts.mit.edu Target browser: Google Chrome

3. List the name, school (if not MIT), year, major, and number of years of web programming experience of everyone on your team.

Ruwen Liu, course 6-2, MIT undergrad class of 2014, half year of experience
Andi Wang, course 18C, MIT undergrad class of 2014, no experience
Xunjie Li, course 6-2, MIT undergrad class of 2014, no experience

4. Describe the problem your website aims to solve.

Americans are disengaged from the political process. Some do not bother paying attention to politics because they feel it is uninteresting, some do not have the time to research politics, and others feel that participation is futile because they, as individuals, can do little to change the current political situation.

5. Describe how your website solves this problem.

We allow busy individuals to participate in the political process by bringing many sources of information for our users to view and to interact with in one site. Through presenting information visually, we deal with disinterest in politics by making it look "hip." Through promoting discussion and creation of events, we hope to empower individuals to make political change by connecting them with other individuals who also believe that change needs to happen.

6. What backend technology did you use?

PHP, MYSQL

7. What frontend technology did you use?

Javascript, Ajax, CSS, jQuery

8. List all of your site's features.

-word wall(zeitgeist): fetch all the top buzz words used on the site and create a visual presentation.
-news feeds: We fetch political news from national news agencies based on user preferences.
-politician album mode: We present a visually stimulating representation of all the legislators who have searched in congress in order to create a more human face of politics.
-update box: fetch facebook and twitter updates of the politicians the user is following so the user feels like s/he has a direct line to those who govern the country.
--my backyard: informs users who their congressmen are
--follow: allow users to track events, groups, politicians, and other users.

-Event/Group/Profile creation(Including posting/commenting system), and private messaging system: Facilitate exchange of ideas and information on our site. Encourage users to connect to each other and participate in the political process
--politician/group/event recommend: recommend things to users based on the tags of things the user has previously showed interest in
--politician/group/event search: allow users to search through politicians, groups, and events based on name

9. Describe which feature(s) are most important and describe why/how that adds to the core value of your website.

Event creation: Allows the website to have a larger impact in the political realm by translating user interactions online to the real world.
Group creation: Connects users to people with whom they can effect political change, allows users to feel that they are participating in the political process
Commenting system: facilitates and encourages political discussion
Follow feature: allow busy users to track things they are interested in
Visualization of information (album mode, zeitgeist): Makes politics look like something young people should engage in

10. Tell us what you think makes your site cool and/or unique.
We have a fabulous homepage. Visual presentation of information(picture display of people, and wall of most popular tag words used on our site)

11. List all 3rd party API's, 3rd party plugins, open-source code, etc that you used.
SunlightLab Congress data for the congressmen information,
http://www.emirplicanic.com/php/php-mysql-search-script for tutorials on the search function, classes for the private messages system taken from *phpclasses.org*

12. Does your site fit within the MIT Utility category?

Yes. Hippol makes it much easier for MIT students to participate in the political process, by providing a central place where they can reach out to politicians, voice their opinions, find others with similar political leanings, and recruit people to participate in their political events.

13. Does your site fit within the Philanthropy category?

Our site has the potential to allow ordinary individuals to band together to advocate on the behalf of the disenfranchised.

14. Will at least one of your team members be able to attend judging on Wednesday and awards on Thursday if you are chosen as a semifinalist?

Yes. All three of us are able to attend on both Wednesday and Thursday.