

#5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

Take a couple of minutes to think on the following questions. Write your answers in complete sentences.

## **1. WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?**

## **2. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT?**

## **3. HOW DOES IT IMPACT OUR DAILY LIFE?**

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

### **Government Questions**

**Answer the following questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper. There is no right or wrong answer (Unless you say something completely idiotic or something insanely incoherent). Please provide examples and support every one of your assertions. Take some time to think about your answer. You might want to discuss these questions with your parents or perhaps the old wise man or woman that lives down the street from you.**

- 1. What makes a country a country?**
- 2. Who has power in our society? Who controls our government?**
- 3. How far should our government go in controlling our lives?**
- 4. What should the government provide for their people?**
- 5. How does government balance the differences within our society?**
- 6. What are the biggest problems within our government today? Be specific.**

## Current Events

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### Governor Rides Bus to Show Motorists Ways to Save

Detroit Free Press (AP)

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Granholm rides bus to show motorists ways to save

By KATHY BARKS HOFFMAN • Associated Press • July 17, 2008

LANSING — Paperback book and tote bag in hand, Katie Ames boarded the bus as usual this morning.

Then she discovered the crowd of reporters and photographers accompanying a passenger already on the bus: Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

"Hello, Ms. Granholm," said Ames, 39, who rides the bus daily to her job with a downtown insurance agency. Her surprise was evident.

"I've had no coffee yet," she demurred as TV cameras swung her way.

Michigan's governor temporarily traded in her SUV and state police driver for the city bus to show motorists ways to save money by avoiding high gasoline prices. Granholm also has ridden her bike to work a few times to make the point.

Today, she donned sneakers with her tan pantsuit to walk the few blocks from her Lansing home to a bus stop, then hopped on a Capital Area Transportation Authority bus for the half-hour ride to her downtown office. She carried her dress sandals and some work materials in a mesh backpack.

"I'm not a bus taker, and it's not an option for me every day," said Granholm, who generally is driven the seven miles to work by her state police escort and was taking her first ride on CATA.

"Not everybody can take the bus. ... But for somebody who's a little bit further out, obviously this would save a significant amount of money," she said.

CATA CEO-Executive Director Sandy Draggoo said ridership has increased 20% as more people look for alternatives to driving to work. She expects the bus line to give 11 million rides this year, a number she calls "phenomenal" in an area of 270,000 residents.

"People are doing it by choice," and it's not just students or people without other transportation, she said. "We are seeing more briefcases every single day."

Granholm's husband, Dan Mulhern, passed the bus stop on his morning run as his wife waited for the 6:55 a.m. bus to arrive.

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on back

Granholm's transportation adviser, Ben Kohrman, boarded the bus as he does every morning in his neighborhood just west of downtown. The governor got off the bus on a corner near the Capitol and walked the two blocks to her office.

She's promoting ways to save money on driving, heating and cooling, health care and education on her Saving Money Web site.

## Current Events

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### Governor Rides Bus to Show Motorists Ways to Save

*For Discussion*

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1. What was the point of Governor Granholm's bus ride?
2. Do you think people are unaware that they can save money on gas by riding the bus? Is it helpful to have the governor demonstrate how to do this?
3. Why doesn't the governor ride the bus every day? Do other people have valid reasons for not using public transportation?
4. The article notes that bus ridership has increased 20%, though it does not say over what time period the change has occurred. What do you think has caused the increase?
5. Is it the job of politicians to set an example for citizens to follow?

In a related story, the governor has also **ridden her bike to work**.

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