Money in Politics ~ Internet Assignment Name_____ Period____

Using the website below, answer the following questions in the space provided:

http://www.vox.com/2014/7/30/5949581/money-in-politics-charts-explain

1. Look at the chart put together by the Center for Responsive Politics. What has happened to the amount of money spent on campaigns & lobbying from 1996 to 2012? What type of spending is NOT included in the chart?

2. According to Good Magazine, what percentage of the population contributed most of the money (68%) during the 2010 campaign?

3. Name the top three conservative donors in the 2012 election. Google each donor and write down what you learn about each.

4. Name the top three liberal donors in the 2012 election. Google each donor and write down what you learn about each.

5. Which business sector contributed the most to Democrats and Republicans?

6. Analyze the chart that looks at "how often does the higher-spending candidate win?" What conclusions can you draw from the chart?

7. What was the average cost of winning a seat in the House of Representatives in 2012? What about the Senate in 2012?

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8. During the Presidential Election of 2012, which states had the most money spent on TV ads? (Top three) How much was spent in each state? Why do you think so much was spent on these three states?

9. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following campaign finance Supreme Court cases:

- ✓ Buckley v. Valeo =
- ✓ Wisconsin Right to Life v. FEC =
- ✓ Citizens United v. FEC =
- ✓ McCutcheon v. FEC =

10. Since 1998, what has happened to the amount of spending by outside groups? How much was spent by outside groups in 2012?

11. Dark money refers to groups setting up 501 C 4's so that contributions don't have to be disclosed. Look at the maze on #21. Why do you think people like the Koch Brothers go to great lengths to support and create so many different groups?

12. On point #23 there is a listing on different organizations/businesses and the amount of money they spend lobbying Congress and other elected officials. Are there any names that you are familiar with?

13. What do many members of Congress do when they leave office?

14. How has former President Bill Clinton made a huge sum of money since leaving office?

15. Look at chart #33. Which outside countries have funded the most trips for Congressional staffers?