Representing Democracy Ceremony and Ritual in the Parliament

Instructions Research the background of your Congressional representatives based on your address listed with CU - two senators and a member of the House of Representatives. Find out about their previous occupation(s), political experience, family, income, education, and other relevant demographics. What percentage of the vote did they receive to win in their last election? What are two policy issues areas they are interested in? How do these areas reflect their ideologies?

Parliaments are evolving and dynamic bodies that seek to make claims to representativeness not only through their institutional form but also through the processes through which particular forms take shape and have affect — through modes of behaviour, negotiating political and physical spaces and creating institution specific cultures which socialise Members in their participation and through examining the performance of ceremony and ritual in institutions. Through these, parliamentary institutions create and maintain powerful symbols of democracy and power. Institutional disciplining is also challenged performatively — by refusal to participate, by subversion of norms or by rejection of rules. In parliaments opening ceremonies, the performance of the Speaker and moments of disruptive behaviour point to how institutional norms are reproduced, maintained and challenged.

Write an essay. Start by identifying all three of your representatives. Then, pick the representative you are most interested in and explain why they interest you. Present the information you found in your research required above in the essay.

Writing Requirements (APA format)

Length: 4 full pages (not including title page or references page)

1-inch margins

Double spaced

12-point Times New Roman font

Title page

References page (minimum of 2 scholarly sources beyond those provided)