

Assignment 1
First Paper
PS 171 Spring 2005
Professor Bruce E. Cain

Assignment due, Tuesday, Feb 15, 2005

Write a short paper (no more than 5 pages double spaced) that takes a current Assembly, State Senate or Congressional district and traces its lineage through the 1981, 1991 and 2001 redistrictings. Were the areas in the current seat divided between other districts previously? What is the political and demographic makeup of the current district? Have the changes in district lines made the current seat safer than its predecessor in 1991 (or predecessors if the area was divided into more than one seat previously)? To what extent has the area itself changed politically or demographically since 1991? Note that the last two questions focus on 1991 to 2001 comparisons. You need only refer to 1981 in describing the lineage. Lastly, can a new redistricting make this seat competitive? If so, how?