Class project for Legislative Reporting – MASC 375

Instructions for students * By Jeff South * Feb. 1, 2000

Our project will focus on campaign contributions: Who are the biggest donors to members of the General Assembly? How much have they given, and why?

State legislators and candidates must report the campaign donations they receive to the State Board of Elections. A nonprofit group called the Virginia Public Access Project then computerizes this information and makes it available on the Internet. VPAP is funded by the state's major newspapers, along with The Washington Post, The Associated Press, the Virginia Press Association and other groups.

Here are the steps for our class project:

- 1. Get the data from the VPAP Web site. We'll have to download the data one legislator at a time. (The advantage of being a VPAP member, like the Richmond Times-Dispatch or The Virginian-Pilot, is that those papers get the raw data, with all the legislators and candidates in one huge file.)
- 2. Analyze the data with Microsoft Access, a database manager. We'll use Access to identify the top 100 or 200 donors.
- 3. Have each student do short articles on three of the top donors. I'll give you the campaign records for those donors. You'll analyze them with Microsoft Excel: Which legislators got the most money from a particular contributor? How much money did the donor give to Republicans and how much to Democrats? Did the contributor concentrate donations on a particular legislative committee? With that information and with interviews, you'll write your mini profiles.

In addition, two students will team up to write an overview story on campaign donations. They will crunch data to describe the top donors (What special interests do they represent? To whom did they give the most money?) and look at Virginia's campaign finance laws (the state has no limits on donations). These two students also will talk to experts like Larry Sabato and Bob Holzworth; groups like Common Cause and the Center for Responsive Politics; legislators; lobbyists and others. The result: We'll have a long story about the issue; a list of the 100 or 200 top donors, and shorter stories on about 25 of those donors.

Our first task is to get the data from the VPAP Web site. So, go to:

http://www.opensecrets.org/vpap/



We want to do the "Search by Candidate: >Elected Office". And we want to search the 1999 election cycle:



When you click "Go!", you'll get a list of candidates (including the winning candidates – the current legislators) in the 1999 elections. I'll give each student a list of General Assembly members for whom you must get contributions data.



Suppose you're assigned to get the data for Delegate Terry Kilgore of House District 1. You'd click on the link from his name; that would take you to this page:



Look at the box that says "Sort by:". You want a list of Kilgore's donations, sorted by the contributor's name. So click "View Itemized Contributions," and you'll get this – a list of all the people and groups who donated to Kilgore during the 1999 election cycle:



Each record shows: the donor's name (Allegheny Power PAC); how much the donor gave (\$250); the donor's general category, or sector (Energy, Natural Resources); the donor's more specific description (Electric Utilities); and the donor's city and state (Hagerstown, MD).

We want to save this list. So, go to File/Save As... Now, here's where it gets tricky: First, you need to save the file as text. To do this, give the file a name and add ".txt". We'll call this list "kilgore.txt". Moreover, you must remember where you're saving it, so you can move the files later onto a disk and give them to me.



When you do this, we'll be able to open the text files with Word, Excel or Access.

Our **second task** is to combine all of the data for all of the legislators into one file and analyze it in Access. Once I get all the data from students, I'll do the combining, using a program called Monarch, which can take text files and turn them into a database. In Access, here's what the data will look like:

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LEGISLATOR	DONOR	DESCRIPTION	SECTOR	CITY	STA	AMOUN
(ilgore, Terry G	Allegheny Power PAC	Electric Utilities	Energy, Natural Resourc	Hagerstown	MD	\$250.00
lilgore, Terry G	Allen Allen Allen & Allen	Trial Lawyers	Law	Richmond	VA	\$250.00
ligore, Terry G	Allen, Charles	Banks	Finance, Insurance	Jonesville	VA	\$500.00
ilgore, Terry G	American Electric Power	Electric Utilities	Energy, Natural Resourc	Washington	DC	\$300.0
(ilgore, Terry G	American Institute of Architects	Architectural Services/Su	Real Estate/Construction	Richmond	VA	\$200.0
algore, Terry G	Appalachian Oil Co	Oil Companies/Refineries	Energy, Natural Resourc	Blountville	TN	\$1,500.0
lilgore, Terry G	Appalachian Power Co	Electric Utilities	Energy, Natural Resourc	Roanoke	VA	\$500.0
(ilgore, Terry G	Arora, Vasu D	Physicians	Health Care	Grundy	VA	\$1,250.0
ilgore, Terry G	Attride, Roy	Miscellaneous Transporta	Transportation	Richmond	VA.	\$250.0
ilgore, Terry G	Baker, Donald B	Local Government Employ	Public Employees	Clintwood	VA	\$1,500.0
ilgore, Terry G	Baker, Jettie	Homemakers/Students/No	Undetermined	Clintwood	VA	\$500.0
ilgore, Terry G	Barger, Gorman	Heavy Equipment Sales/L	Real Estate/Construction	Weber City	VA	\$1,000.0
ilgore, Terry G	Barnette, Earl W	Service Stations/Conveni-	Energy, Natural Resourc	Wise	VA	\$500.0
ilgore, Terry G	Bell Atlantic Va State PAC	Telecommunications - Lo	Communication, Technol	Richmond	VA	\$625.0
ilgore, Terry G	Botts, Robert E	Optometrists	Health Care	Big Stone Gap	VA	\$500.0
ilgore, Terry G	BP Amoco	Oil Companies/Refineries	Energy, Natural Resourc	Towson	MD	\$250.0
ilgore, Terry G	Bradshaw, William	Attorneys/Law Firms	Law	Big Stone Gap	VA	\$500.0
ilgore, Terry G	Brown & Root USA Inc	General Contractors	Real Estate/Construction	Houston	TX	\$500.0
ilgore, Terry G	Browning-Ferris Industries	Waste Disposal/Landfills	Manufacturing	Richmond	VA	\$400.0
ilgore, Terry G	Chadwell, Georgia	Retired	Miscellaneous	Ewing	VA	\$500.0
ilgore, Terry G	Cline Adkins & Cline	Attorneys/Law Firms	Law	Norton	VA	\$220.0
ilgore, Terry G	Columbia/HCA for Good Governm	Hospitals/Health Systems	Health Care	Richmond	VA.	\$250.0
ilgore, Terry G	Committee for Responsible Adver	Outdoor Advertising/Billbo	Business - Retail, Service	Norfolk	VA	\$150.0
ligore, Terry G	Concerned Friends for Tobacco	Tobacco Companies/Farr	Agriculture	Blairs	VA.	\$200.0
ilgore, Terry G	Consolidated Metals	Chemicals/Plastics	Manufacturing	Cedar Bluff	V.A	\$500.0
ilgore, Terry G	Consolidated Natural Gas Service	Natural Gas	Energy, Natural Resourc	Washington	DC	\$250.0
ilgore, Terry G	Consulting Engineers Council of	Engineers/Engineering Fi	Real Estate/Construction	Richmond	VA	\$200.0
ilgore, Terry G	Cumberland Energy/Resources (Coal Mining/Processing	Energy, Natural Resourc	Wise	VA	\$500.0

As you can see, Access displays each record on one line. (The first line is how much Allegheny Power gave to Terry Kilgore.) It's the same information you saw in your Web browser, but it's displayed differently.

Access is a powerful program for adding up and summarizing data. For starters, we can tell Access to sum up all of the contributions in our data:



In other words: During the 1999 election cycle, the 140 current members of the General Assembly received a total of \$17,703,628.62 in donations.

We also can tell Access to show how much each legislator received. Don't worry right now about **how** to get Access to do this. The critical thing is simply knowing that it can: Access is the tool to use when you want to do a lot of totaling and subtotaling. In this case, we can pour this big bucket of contributions out into little buckets, one for each legislator, and do a total on each little bucket.

We can tell Access to put the results in order by district (House District 1, House District 2, etc.) or by the legislators' money total.

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LEGISLATOR	SUMOFAMOUNT
Kilgore, Terry G	\$59,511.00
Phillips, Clarence E	\$27,668.47
Stump, Jackie T	\$17,582.94
Johnson Jr, Joseph P	\$9,950.00
Tate Jr, John H	\$266,397.90
Jackson, Thomas M	\$41,650.00
Keister, Benny	\$289,080.00
Griffith, H Morgan	\$52,039.44
Dudley, Allen W	\$32,421.00
Day, Barnie	\$140,729.11
Armstrong, Ward L	\$47,797.11
Shuler, James M	\$65,765.22
Marshall, Robert G	\$63,466.87
Cranwell, C Richard	\$578,939.49
Louderback, Allen L	\$21,600.00
Woodrum, Clifton A	\$76,659.11
Thomas, A Victor	\$31,443.00
Deeds, R Creigh	\$103,644.00
Putney, Lacey E	\$36,100.00
Clement, Whitt W	\$61,905.00
Wagner, Frank W	\$53,854.91
Byron, Kathy J	\$57,750.00
Bryant Jr, L Preston	\$53,546.60
Wilkins Jr. S Vance	\$166,905.22
Landes, R Steven	\$29,067.00
Weatherholtz, Glenn M	\$13,070.00
Nixon Jr, Samuel A	\$18,425.00
Howel, William J	\$47,591.33
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Datasheet View	

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LEGISLATOR	SumOfAMOUNT
Cranwell, C Richard	\$578,939.49
Diamonstein, Alan A	\$490,266.59
Edwards, John S	\$473,628.20
Pollard Jr. Albert	\$453,257.48
McDonnell, Robert F	\$434,915.15
Moss Jr, Thomas W	\$430,214.11
Stosch, Walter A	\$409,324.00
Norment Jr, Thomas K	\$381,379.00
Couric, Emily	\$373,758.96
Williams, Donald L	\$342,424.59
Saslaw, Richard L	\$325,910.31
Larrabee, Phil	\$308,361.45
Suit, Terrie	\$303,731.81
Byrme, Leslie L	\$292,760.57
Keister, Benny	\$289,080.00
Holland, Richard J	\$282,487.00
Vvilliams, Martin E	\$274,260.46
Howell, Janet D	\$267,813.00
Tate Jr, John H	\$266,397.90
Rust Jr, John H	\$259,093.54
Amundson, Kristen	\$254,983.00
Broman, George	\$248,991.83
Remas, D Nick	\$247,806.69
Puller, Linda T	\$245,964.00
Schrock, Edward L	\$241,049.00
Quayle, Frederick M	\$234,413.00
Callahan Jr, Vincent F	\$221,073.00
Devolites, Jeannemarie	\$219,201.25
Record: II (1	▶ ▶1 ▶ * of 140
Datasheet View	

Now, suppose we want to know which donors gave the most money. Well, we'd pour the donations out into buckets again – but this time, one for each **donor**. Then we'd sum up how much is in each donor's bucket. We'll want to put the contributors in order by how much they gave:

Here's what the results look like. The complete list shows 10,533 donors – that's how many individuals and organizations gave money to legislators during the last campaign.

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DONOR	DESCRIPTION	SECTOR	CITY	STATE	SumOfAMOUNT
Commonwealth Victory Fund	Democratic - State/National Committees	Political Parties/Candidates	Richmond	VA	\$931,058.36
New Majority Project PAC	Republican - Local/District Committees	Political Parties/Candidates	Richmond	VA	\$474,895.04
US Rep - National Rep Congress Comm (NRCC)	Republican - State/National Committees	Political Parties/Candidates	Washington	DC	\$270,500.00
Va Medical Society	Physicians	Health Care	Richmond	VA	\$227,732.78
Va Trial Lawyers Assn	Trial Lawyers	Law	Richmond	VA	\$220,900.00
Va Bankers Assn PAC	Banke	Finance, Insurance	Richmond	VA	\$175,470.00
Philip Marris	Tobacco Companies/Farmers	Agriculture	New York	NY	\$158,350.06
Va Auto Dealers Assn	Auto Dealers	Transportation	Richmond	VA	\$154,297.00
Va State AFL-CIO	Miscellaneous Labor	Organized Labor	Richmond	VA	\$150,825.00
Ya Hospital Assn PAC	Hospitals/Health Systems	Health Care	Richmond	VA	\$146,360.66
Homebuilders PAC	Homebuilders	Real Estate/Construction	Richmond	VA	\$139,810.31
Newport News Shipbuilding	Shipbuilding/Repair	Defense	Newport News	VA.	\$137,300.00
Commonwealth Council PAC	Republican - Local/District Committees	Political Parties/Candidates	Richmond	VA	\$132,000.00
Dominion Leadership Fund	Republican - Local/District Committees	Political Parties/Candidates	Amherst	VA	\$125,000.00
/a Optometric Assn	Optometrists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	\$124,225.00
Ya Dem - State	Democratic - State/National Committees	Political Parties/Candidates	Richmond	VA.	\$120,684.50
Ya Rep - Joint Caucus	Republican - State/National Committees	Political Parties/Candidates	Richmond	VA.	\$120,650.00
Ya Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA.	\$118,550.00
Committee for Responsible Government	Electric Utilities	Energy, Natural Resources	Richmond	VA.	\$115,050.00
Dominion Resources Inc	Electric Utilities	Energy, Natural Resources	Richmond	VA	\$106,795.14
Frigon Blue Cross Blue Shield	HMO's & Medical Plans	Health Care	Richmond	VA	\$104,250.00
Realtors PAC of Va	Reators	Real Estate/Construction	Glen Allen	VA	\$102,366.97
AcGuire Woods Battle & Boothe	Attorneys/Law Firms	Law	Richmond	VA.	\$94,670.00
Bell Atlantic Va State PAC	Telecommunications - Local Carriers	Communication, Technology	Richmond	VA	\$93,947.79
GTE - Va State PAC	Telecommunications - Long Distance Carriers	Communication, Technology	Richmond	VA.	\$92,616.00
/a Health Care Assn	Nursing Homes	Health Care	Richmond	VA	\$91,463.96
/a Beer Wholesalers Assn	Beer & Wine Distributors	Business - Retail, Services	Richmond	VA	\$68,604.00
Va Cable PAC	TV - Cable	Communication, Technology	Richmond	VA	\$65,905.00
/a Wine Wholesalers Assn PAC	Beer & Wine Distributors	Business - Retail, Services	Richmond	VA	\$85,469.48
/a Coal Assn	Coal Mining/Processing	Energy, Natural Resources	Richmond	VA	\$82,250.00
Hazel & Thomas PAC	Attorneys/Law Firms	Law	Alexandria	VA	\$62,007.00
Grayson, George W	Gen Assembly Members - Democrat	Political Parties/Candidates	Williamsburg	VA	\$80,900.00
Mays & Valentine	Attorneys/Law Firms	Law	Richmond	VA	\$80,584.77
Va Credit Union	Credit Unions	Finance, Insurance	Lynchburg	VA	\$75,875.00

Now, we want to focus on the top donors – but how do we define them? What's our cutoff? Here's where a reporter's intuition and a lot of trial and error come in. Remember, the total amount of donations is \$17,703,628.62. We want to focus on the contributors who gave most of the money (meaning, more than \$8,851,814). So first, let's total up how much the top 100 donors gave: \$8,342,852.86 – a little less than half. Then, try the top 200: \$10,255,235.29. But that would be a lot of contributors to list. So let's try something in the middle – the top 150 donors. They gave a total of \$9,474,119.60. That's 54 percent of all the money that legislators received.

To me, this would be the theme of our package: "Members of the Virginia General Assembly received more than half of their campaign donations from a relatively small pool of 150 contributors. Here's who they are and why they gave."

Our **third task** is to take some of these donors and examine whom they gave money to. This is where you will use <u>your</u> computer skills. When I assign you a contributor to write about, I'll also give you a list of that contributor's donations. You will analyze this list with Excel, a spreadsheet program.

For example, suppose I assign you to do a story on Donor No. 20, the Virginia Dental PAC. (PAC stands for political action committee.) This group gave \$118,550 in donations. I would give you a spreadsheet that looks like this:

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DISTRICT	LEGISLATOR	PARTY	DONOR	DESCRIPTION	SECTOR	GTY	STATE	AMOUNT				
H001	Kilgore, Terry G	R.	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	YA .	500			A	
H002	Phillips, Clarence E	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	750				
H003	Stump, Jackie T	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	250				
H004	Johnson Jr. Joseph P	D	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	YA	500			1000	
H005	Tate Jr, John H	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	1500				
H005	Jackson, Thomas M	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA.	500				
H008	Griffith, H Morgan	R.	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	YA.	250				
H009	Dudley, Allen W	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	YA	250				
H018	Day, Barnie	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA.	500				_
H011	Armstrance Word L	D	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	YA	500				
H012	Shuler, James M	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	1800				
H013	Marshal, Robert G	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	250				
H014	Cranwell, C Bichard	D	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Core	Richmond	VA	1500		÷	10	
H015	Louderback, Allen L	B	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	500				
H018	Woodrum, Clifton A	D	Va Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	1000		8	12	
H012	Thomas A Victor	D	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Core	Richmond	YA	750				
H018	Deeds, R Creigh	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	1000				
H019	Putney Locay F	1	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Bichmond	VA	750		1		
H020	Clement WhittW	n.	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Bichmond	VA	500			-	
H021	Wagner Frank W	B	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	250				
H022	Byton Kethy I	B	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	1500				
H023	Bruent, k Preston	B	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Bichmond	VA	750			-	
H024	Wilking Jr S Vanno	P	Va Dentel PAC	Dontists	Hoalth Carp	Richmond	VA	1250				
H025	Landes B Steven	B	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	500				
H025	Weetherholtz Clenn M	P	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	250				
H027	Nixon Jr. Semuel A	B	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Bichmond	VA	500				
H028	Howel William I	B	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Cree	Richmond	VA	750				
H029	Sherwood Beverk	B	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Cere	Bichmond	VA	250				
H030	Broman George	B	Va Dental PAC	Dontists	Hoalth Cerro	Bichmond	VA	1750			-	
H031	Katzen Jouk	B	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Cree	Bichmond	VA	500				
H032	Black Richard	P	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentiete	Health Cere	Richmond	VA	750				
H033	Max Jon T	P	Va Dontel PAC	Dorticts	Hoalth Carp	Richmond	VA	500		2		
H034	Collahan Jr. VincentF	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	YA	1500		-		

Your job is to make sense of the numbers:

- ✓ How many legislators got money from the Virginia Dental PAC? (It's easy to count, because each line is one legislator.) Did the dentists spread their money around, or did they focus on a handful of lawmakers?
- ✓ Who got the biggest donations from the Virginia Dental PAC? To find out, sort the list by AMOUNT. Here's how: Click anywhere in the AMOUNT column, then click on the Z-A button (the "Sort Descending" button) on your toolbar. Excel will grab your data, flip it around and put the largest contributions on top.

Do the legislators at the top of the list hold key leadership positions? Are they on committees that control legislation in which the Virginia Dental PAC would be interested? (When you do this, keep handy a list of the current committee assignments. You should check last year's assignments, too – because that was the lineup when these donations were made.)

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1	DISTRICT	LEGISLATOR	PARTY	DONOR	DESCRIPTION	SECTOR GTY	S	TATE	AMOUNT	-			-
21	S017	Houck, R Edward	D	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richm	nond V	A	3000				
3	S029	Colgan, Charles J	D	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richm	and V	A	3000				
4	H058	Rhodes, Anne G	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richm	and V	SA .	2750				
5	S018	Lucos, L Louise	D	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richm	nond Y	A	2750			12 13	
6	H088	Moss Jr. Thomas W	D	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richm	and V	A	2500				
7	S027	Pots Jr. H Russell	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richm	and V	(A)	2500				
8	H094	Diamonstein Alon A	D	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richm	nond V	A	2000			1	
9	SD13	Quevle Frederick M	B	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richm	ond V	A	2000				
10	S015	Holland Bichard J	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richm	and V	(A)	2006				1 18
11	S021	Edwards John S	D	Vo Dentol PAC	Dentists	Health Care Bichm	nond Y	A	2000				1 8
12	S023	Newman Stephen D	B	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care, Richm	ond V	A	2000				1 8
13	\$025	Courie Emily	D	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care, Bichm	and V	Δ.	2000				18
14	8035	Seslow Bicherd I	D	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Core, Bichm	ond V	A	2000		10		1 8
15	SD39	Marve Madison E	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Bichm	ond V	A	2000				1 2
18	H012	Shuler James M	D.	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care, Birchm	und V	4	1800		12	10 10	1 8
17	H030	Bromen George	8	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care, Bichm	nond Y	A	1750		-		1 10
18	SOLL	Martin Stephen H	B	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care, Bichm	iond V	A	1750				1 8
19	H005	Teta .k . John H	D	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care, Bichm	and V	4	1500				- 8
20	H014	Cranwell C Bichard	0	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care, Bichm	and V	2	1500				1 8
21	H022	Ehmon Kathy, I	P	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Birbr	and V	(A.	1500				- 8
22	H034	Celeben /r VincentE	B	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richm	and V	4	1500				1 8
23	5001	Williams Martin F	B	Ve Dentel PAC	Destiete	Health Care, Bichm	ond V	4	1500				- 8
24	5007	Schrock Eduard I	P	Ve Dontel PAC	Dorticle	Hoalth Carp Richm	and V	6	1500				1 8
25	Shin	Wetkins John C	B	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richm	and V	a l	1500				1 8
25	SUJE	Duller Linde T	n	Ve Deviel PAC	Dentists	Health Care, Dichm	ond V	4	1500				- 8
27	5038	Purkett Phillip	D	Ve Dontel PAC	Donticts	Hoelth Caro, Bichm	and V	<u>a</u>	1500				1
20	S040	Manaplas Is Millians C	P	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richm	and V	(h.	1500				- 8
20	H024	Walking k E Manco	D.	Ve Devid PAC	Dentists	Health Core Flichm	ond V	2	1250				- 8
20	H038	Diver Kenesth D	- 6	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care, Dicher	and V	~	1250				
31	H037	Pust k John H	0	Ve Daviel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Picture	and V		1250				- 8
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It might be helpful to filter the list – to look first at the House members, then at the senators. Excel has a handy feature for doing this. Make sure your cursor is somewhere on your list (not off to the side). Then, on your toolbar, click on Data | Filter | AutoFilter. That will put an arrow on each of your column headings:

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You want to filter by the DISTRICT column – because all of the House members have districts that begin with H, and all of the senators have districts that begin with S. So click on the arrow on the DISTRICT heading, and choose "Custom...":

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H004	Potts Jr. H Russell	R	Ve Dentel P
H006	Diamonstein, Alan A	D	Ve Dental P
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H009	Holland Richard J	D	Vo Dental P
H011	Edwards, John S	D	Ve Dental P
1H012	Newman, Stephen D	R	Ve Dentel P
H013	Couric, Emily	D	Vo Dental P
H019	Saslaw, Richard L	D	Ve Dental P
H016	Marya, Madison E	D	Ve Dental P
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That will give you the Custom AutoFilter box. You want the rows where DISTRICT begins with H:

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That will give you this list:

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8 H094	Diamonstein, Alan A	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	2000				
16 HU12	Shuler, James M	U	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Hichmond	YA	1800				
17 H030	Bramen, George	R	Ve Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1750				
19 HOUS	Tete Jr, John H	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1500				
20 H014	Cranwell, CRuchard	D	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1500				
21 H022	Bytan, Kethy J	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	YA	1500				
22 H034	Callahan Jt, Vincent F	R.	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1500				1
29 H024	Wilkins Jr. S Vance	R	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	YA	1250				8
30 H036	Plum, Kenneth R.	D	Ve Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1250				
31 H037	Rust Jr, John H	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1250				
32 H041	Dillard IL James H	R	Vo Dentol PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1250		10		1.1
33 H069	Hall Franklin P	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1250				1 2
34 H090	Robinson, William P	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1250		£		1.18
37 H016	Woodrum, Clifton A	D	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	YA .	1080				1.1
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59 H017	Thomes A Victor	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	750				1
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62 H028	Howel, William J	B	Va Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	750				18
63 H032	Block Bichard	B	Vo Dentol PAC	Dentists	Health Care, Bichmond	YA	750				1 8
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Now, only the House members are displayed. This will make it easier to see if, for example, the Virginia Dental PAC gave to a lot of members of the House committees that deal with health, insurance and the like.

What's the total of the PAC's donations to House members? Scroll to the bottom of your filtered list. Click in the first blank cell in the AMOUNT column. Then find the sigma – the

Greek letter – on your toolbar. This is the AutoSum button. Click it, hit your Enter key and Excel automatically will add up everything in that column.

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117 H026	Weatherholtz, Glenn M	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	I VA	250				16
118 H029	Sherwood, Beverly J	R	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	I YA	250				18
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122 H072	Reid, John S	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	I VA	250				- 25
123 H073	Centor, Eric I	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	AV I	250				- 38
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125 H075	Council Jr, J Paul	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	I VA	250				- 38
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127 H092	Christian, Mory T	D	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	YA I	250				10
128 H095	Crittenden, Flora D	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	i VA	250				18
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So, you've just discovered that the Virginia Dental PAC gave House members \$65,300. How much money went to senators? Go to the top of your spreadsheet, click on the arrow next to DISTRICT again, select "Custom …" and filter for the rows that begin with S. Return to the bottom of your spreadsheet (row 130), and the AutoSum now shows that the PAC gave \$53,250 to senators:

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51 S014	Forbes, J Randy	R	Vo Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care R	lichmond	VA	1000				- 88
52 S022	Trumbo, MW "Bo"	R	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care R	lichmond	YA	1000		1		18
53 SD28	Chichester, John H	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care R	ichmond	VA	1000				10
54 S030	Ticer, Patricia S	D	Vo Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care R	lichmond	VA.	1000				18
55 S031	Whipple, Mory M	D	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care R	lichmond	YA	1000				- 53
56 S032	Howell, Janet D	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care R	ichmond	VA	1000				13
57 S033	Mirns, William C	R	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care R	lichmond	YA	1000				12
70 S003	Norment Jr. Thomas K	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care R	lichmond	VA	750				
108 S012	Stosch, Water A	B.	Ve Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care, R	ichmond	VA	500				
109 S016	Morsh II, Henry L	D	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care R	lichmond	YA .	500				
110 S020	Reynolds, W Roscoe	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care IR	lichmond	VA	500				
111 S024	Hanger Jr, Emmet W	B	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care R	ichmond	VA	500				
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(That adds up: \$65,300 to House members plus \$53,250 to senators equals the \$118,550 total that the Virginia Dental PAC gave overall.)

Now let's see how much the PAC gave to Republicans vs. Democrats. In this case, we don't want to filter by the DISTRICT column; we want to filter by the PARTY column. So go to the top of your spreadsheet, click on the arrow next to DISTRICT and select "All". (When you do this, you're "turning off" the filter on the DISTRICT column.) Then, click on the arrow next to PARTY, and choose only the rows where the PARTY is R.

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H008	Newmen, Stephen D	9 S013	Queyle, Frederick M	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	2000
H009 H010	Couric, Emily	10 \$015	Holland, Richard J	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	2000
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H013	Martin, Stephen H	13 S025	Couric, Emily	D	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	2000
HOIS	Willioms, Mortin E	14 S035	Saslew, Richard L	D	Vo Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	2000
H016	Schrock, Edward L	15 SD39	Marye, Madison E	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	2000
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20 2036	Puller, Linda T	17 H030	Bromon, George	IR.	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1750
27 S038	Pucket, Philip	18 S011	Martin, Stephen H	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1750
28 S040	Wampler Jr. William C	19 H005	Tote Jr. John H	D	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	Y/A	1500
35 S019	Howkins, Charles R	20 H014	Cranwell, C Richard	D	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1500
36 S026	Miller, Kevin G	21 H022	Byron, Kathy J	R.	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1500
46 8002	Maxwell, W Henry	22 H034	Callahan Jr. Viricent F	R.	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	YA .	1500
47 S004	Bolling, William T	23 S001	Williams, Martin E	R	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1500
48 S005	Miller, Yvonne B	24 S007	Schrock, Edward L	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1500
49 S008	Stolle, Kenneth W	25 8010	Watkins, John C	R	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	YA	1500
50 S009	Lembert III, Benjamin J	26 S036	Puller, Linde T	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1500
51 S014	Forbes, J Randy	27 5038	Puckett, Phillip	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1500
52 S022	Trumba, MW "Bo"	28 S040	Wampler Jr. William (2 R	Vo Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1500
53 S028	Chichester, John H	29 H024	Wilkins Jr, S Vance	R	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1250
54 S030	Ticer, Patricia S	30 H036	Plum, Kenneth R.	D	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1250
55 8031	Whipple, Mary M	31 H037	Rust Jr. John H	R	Vo Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1250
56 S032	Howell, Janet D	32 H041	Dillard II, James H	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1250
57 S033	Mims, William C	33 H069	Hall, Franklin P	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	1250
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This will give a list of only Republican legislators. At the bottom of your spreadsheet, your AutoSum cell will show how much they got from the Virginia Dental PAC:

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114 H009	Dudley, Allen W	R	Va Dantal PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	250				100
115 H013	Marshall, Robert G	R	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA .	250				- 38
115 H021	Wagner, Frank W	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	250				- 38
117 H028	Weatherholtz, Glenn M	R	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	V.A	250				18
118 H029	Sherwood, Beverly J	R	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	YA .	250				188
119 H052	Rollison III, J A	R	Ve Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	250				12
121 H066	Cox M Kirkland	R	Ve Dentel PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	V.A.	250			8 - B	- 52
122 H072	Reid John S	R	Vis Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	YA	250				16
123 H073	Centor, Eric I	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care Richmond	VA	250				- 38
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Change your PARTY filter from R to D, and then to I (for independent), and you'll get the whole scorecard: The dentists gave \$55,500 to Republicans, \$62,300 to Democrats and \$750 to the one independent legislator.

When you're finished filtering the list, turn off the AutoFilter the same way you turned it on: Go to Data | Filter | AutoFilter.

Excel has other ways of getting totals by party. Here's an option: First, put your list in order by the PARTY column. (Click in the PARTY column, then click the A-Z button.) Then click on Data | Subtotals. Tell Excel that at each change in PARTY, do a sum of the AMOUNT:

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31 308	2 Howell Jonet D	D	Vo Dentol PAC	Dentists	Health Core, Richmond	YA	1000			1 3
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•	62	H095	Crittenden, Flora D	D	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	250			
	63	H097	Groyson, George W	D	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	250			1.0
1.00	64	10.00		D Tota	1					62300			
11.	85	H019	Putney, Lacey E	1	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	750			
14	66			Total						750			1.06
1 [67	H06B	Rhodes, Anne G	R	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA.	2750			
1	68	S027	Potts Jr. H Pussell	R	Ve Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	2500			
	69	S013	Quayle, Frederick M	R	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	2000			
	70	5023	Newman, Stephen D	R	Vis Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	2000			
	71	H030	Bromen, George	R	Ve Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	1750			
	72	S011	Martin, Stephen H	R	Vo Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	1750			19
	73	H022	Byron, Kethy J	B	Va Dental PAC	Dentists	Health Care	Richmond	VA	1500			09

In other words, Excel has listed all the Democrats, then added a "D Total" row (\$62,300, the same number we got before); all the Independents, followed by an "I Total" row; and all the Republicans, followed by an "R Total" row.

To get rid of the subtotals, go to Data | Subtotals | Remove All.

Excel has yet another way to flip around the data and summarize it by PARTY (or any other column). You can do a "pivot table" – but before you do, your list must be very clean: no totals at the bottom, no subtotals, no filters. You'll find this feature under Data | PivotTable Report. Excel will try to find your data (in this case, from cell A1 to cell I129) and ask what you want your report to show. The key dialogue box asks what you want displayed in the rows of your report (you want PARTY) and what you want in the DATA section of your report (you want the sum of the AMOUNT column).

PivotTable Wizard - Step	3 of 4		? ×
Som A Baue Suon Evons Anona A		Construct your the field button: diagram on the	PivotTable by dragging s on the right to the left.
PAGE	PARTY ROW	<u>Column</u> Sum of Amount	DISTRICT CITY LEGISLAT STATE PARTY AMOUNT DONOR DESCRIPT SECTOR
2		Cancel < <u>B</u> ad	:k Next > Einish

Click through to Finish, and you'll get a new worksheet that summarizes your data by PARTY. Don't worry about your original list of contributions: It's still there.

After you've sorted and analyzed the data for a particular donor, call a spokesperson or lobbyist for the group and ask about the organization's contributions. How does the organization decide whom to give to? Does it give money to "reward" legislators who have supported the group's positions? Does it give money in hopes of getting access to legislators – a chance to talk up the group's positions?

🗙 Microsoft Excel - VA Dental PAC.xls									
Eile Edit Yiew Insert Format Tools Data Window									
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	A	В	С	D					
1	Sum of AMOUNT								
2	PARTY	Total							
3	D	62300							
4	1	750							
5	R	55500							
6	Grand Total	118550							
7									

Through interviews or clips, find out what bills the donor is lobbying for or against (or lobbied for or against last session). How did the donor's biggest recipients vote on these issues?

Each donor profile should be 350 to 500 words. Good luck. If you need help – with Excel or any other aspect of the project, let me know.