Discussion Sheet #2: Shalom, Which Side Are You On?

What: Please complete this discussion exercise for Chapter 4, “Liberalism”

How? Use the form and space below.

When? Due at the beginning of class, Monday, October 20

Liberalism-------

1. Briefly explain—in your own words—the two primary sources of modern liberalism.

2. What is the liberal’s argument with conservatives about human nature? What difference does this make?

3. In your own words, summarize the liberal viewpoint on capitalism and the free market. Explain the liberal view of efficiency and freedom using examples.

4. What do liberals see as “the legitimate job of government?” How is the liberal position on crime similar to the position on foreign policy?

5. Briefly, what are some of your reactions to liberalism? What questions come to mind? What issues or topics do conservatives ignore?
Liberal Voices:

Sample at least three (3) of the following liberal voices in US public life. (Find a bio or mission statement) Briefly comment on what characteristics of liberalism you found in their statements, broadcasts, or writings. What issues and questions arise for you as a result of tuning in to these sources of political liberalism? Which is the best source for understanding liberalism?

Liberal voices:

Molly Ivins (columnist)  
http://freshair.npr.org/guest_fa.jhtml;jsessionid=M0CH51MQHTEGDLA5AINSFI

E.J. Dionne (editorial writer) http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/opinion/columns/dionneei/

Paul Krugman (editorial writer)  


American Prospect http://www.prospect.org/


The Village Voice http://www.villagevoice.com/

ACLU http://www.aclu.org/

Electronic Policy Network http://movingideas.org/

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities http://www.cbpp.org/