**Questions for Readings 8b (65, 67, 68)**

*#65 Kenneth Vogel: Big Money*

1. What Supreme Court case allowed more money to be spent on national campaigns
2. How has money affected the power of the party to select candidate for national office?
3. What was the total of outside spending on the 2008 presidential campaign
4. How about 2012
5. Describe the split in the Democrat party in 2016? (not the two people – but the two ideas!)

*#67 Sean Trande: Are we in an Electoral Alignment*

1. What two journalists came up with the idea of a “realigning election”?
2. Some believe that a realignment election happens every how many years?
3. What is the agreed definition of a realignment election?
4. Identify the five major claims of realignment theory and briefly describe one example the author provides for each.
5. What is the argument against that Obama’s election in 2012 was not a realignment election?
6. What did political scientists say about the 1976 election? Were they correct? Why?
7. What happens in America that normally prevents one party from controlling the government for a long time?

*#68 Ronald Bernstein: Second Civil War*

1. What the authors thesis
2. Even though the author agrees that “rival parties” is part of our political tradition, what does he say has changed?
3. Why does author disagree with Hofstadter’s thesis about parties? (four answers)
4. What are the changes the author lists that have resulted in “hyper-partisanship”? (five answers)
5. What are some of the positive aspects of the new trend of polarization? (four answers)
6. How have politicians contributed to this polarization?
7. What difference does the author point out between now and the Civil War in terms of polarization?