FILM ANALYSIS GUIDE SHEET—Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

1. How does Jefferson Smith become a senator?

2. Compare Jefferson Smith’s characteristics with the other possible appointees.

3. Use two or three words to describe Taylor and Paine.

4. What concepts does the director try to convey in the montage of monuments and music during Smith’s tour of Washington?

5. Why does Smith become so angry with the press after he arrives in Washington?

6. How accurate are the descriptions by Saunders of how a bill becomes law, and the newscaster’s definition of a filibuster?

7. Is Paine’s final confession realistic? What does it reveal about politicians or the nature of politics in the United States?