

First Activity

Sept. 21, 2010

1. Look at the `Class6Starter` spreadsheet; the similarity table – indexed by senator-senator pairs – shows how alike any two senators are. Kerry and Kennedy are not just similar because they voted the same way; they're also similar in that the Kerry-Snowe similarity is very much like the Kennedy-Snowe similarity, and the same goes for any other senator instead of Olympia Snowe. Of course, if Kerry and Kennedy had identical voting records, this would *have* to be true, but if their records are merely similar, it doesn't have to be true.
2. Look at Russ Feingold. What senator is most like him (in having the greatest agreement-score)? Do that senator and Feingold also have similar agreement-scores will lots of other senators?