

FINAL POSITION PAPER

due Monday Jan 14 (early = extra credit!)*

Please take a position on **one** of the following questions:

1. Do we truly have checks and balances, or is one branch of government more powerful than the rest?
2. To what extent has President Obama abused his presidential powers?
3. To what extent will bipartisanship be achieved during Obama's second term?
4. Should Supreme Court Justices have term limits?
5. To what extent are our civil liberties well protected in America?
6. To what extent does our presidential election process need reform?
7. To what extent does the media play a beneficial role in 21st century politics?

*******Each question should be answered with a contemporary viewpoint. Therefore, your examples/sources used should be from the 21st Century (2000->present).*******
(Historical examples may (and should!) be used to establish context/background ONLY.)

The first step in writing a strong position paper is to CREATE YOUR OWN CLAIM, OR THESIS (POSITION) STATEMENT that reflects your opinion. Original claims/thesis statements are instrumental in writing ANY good paper. **YOUR CLAIM IS THE TITLE OF YOUR PAPER, and that statement will be used somewhere in the body your paper.** See links to writing a great paper provided for first position paper. *Remember, a strong position will be supported by EVIDENCE: facts, statistics data, quotes**, etc. The more you substantiate your argument, the more authoritative your argument will be!*

Your essay should be 5-7 typed pages (12 pt font, double spaced, 1" margins) and NOT be written in the first person.

ANY WRITING THAT IS REMOTELY PLAGARIZED WILL RECEIVE A FAILING GRADE WITHOUT A CHANCE TO REWRITE FOR THIS SEMESTER. DON'T DO IT!!!!!!! THIS INCLUDES COPYING PHRASES AND/OR ONLY CHANGING A FEW WORDS AROUND AND/OR CHANGING THE ORDER OF THE SENTENCES. You MUST paraphrase everything and put others' ideas IN YOUR OWN WORDS.

Also—do not merely quote directly from your sources to get around this. As discussed, THIS IS LAZY WRITING AND IS A BAD HABIT TO GET INTO—your college profs will NOT be amused...

****quoting from secondary sources is NOT considered to be evidence!!**

Consider our class discussions, articles read (which you may use as references), etc.

You may use any article linked on the class website (more to come!) as a resource. BEWARE OF POOR SOURCE CHOICES!

DO NOT FORGET TO CITE SOURCES WHEN APPROPRIATE, AND INCLUDE A LIST OF SOURCES CITED (see earlier posted links if you need assistance)

Regardless which question you choose, your paper should:

- address the history/background of the issue
- provide EVIDENCE (3 examples) to substantiate your claim (thesis)
- acknowledge the other side of the issue, the counter-claim

STAY TUNED FOR RUBRIC—please consult and attach with paper

***please speak to me if you need to turn in by 1/18**