

Writing the FRQs in 2019

Combined, the 4 FRQ's are worth 50 % of your overall grade on the AP GOPO exam. Each of the 4 FRQ's is worth 12.5% of your grade.

The Format is
100%
Predictable

- QUESTION #1: Will ALWAYS involve content application and will ALWAYS be worth 3 points.
- QUESTION #2: Will ALWAYS involve quantitative analysis of a graph, histogram, etc. and will ALWAYS be worth 4 points.
- QUESTION #3: Will ALWAYS involve the analysis of SCOTUS cases and will ALWAYS be worth 4 points.
- QUESTION #4: Will ALWAYS be an argumentative “essay” and will ALWAYS be worth 6 points.

Tips to Increase Success on the Argumentative Essay (FRQ #4)

- This is NOT a standard 5 paragraph essay - You will have 3 paragraphs...Component #1 will be your first paragraph; Components #2 and #3 will be included in your second paragraph; and Component #4 will be addressed in your third paragraph.
- This essay is less about content and more about SUPPORTING your claim/thesis with FACTUAL EVIDENCE and SOLID REASONING.
- There are 4 components to the essay
 1. Creating your "CLAIM" or "THESIS"
 2. Supporting your claim or thesis with EVIDENCE
 3. Providing the REASONING for your claim or thesis.
 4. Providing a quality response to an opposing or alternative perspective.

PARAGRAPH 1 The "CLAIM" or "THESIS"

This first component to your essay is critical. IF YOU DON'T "ACCURATELY ARTICULATE A DEFENSIBLE CLAIM OR THESIS THAT ESTABLISHES A LINE OF REASONING", YOU CAN ONLY EARN A MAXIMUM OF 1 POINT OUT OF 6. (Do the math... this will lower your over grade by roughly 10%)

You can VASTLY increase the chances for success on your claim or thesis by including the following in your opening sentence or two:

1. Include the word "because" in your claim. For our purposes this will be a requirement.
2. Include a definition of any political terminology relevant to your claim or thesis. This is NOT mandatory, but useful.

PARAGRAPH 2 Evidence and Reasoning (paragraph #2)

EVIDENCE – 3 POINTS – Provide evidence that is SPECIFIC and RELEVANT to your claim/thesis.

IN PARAGRAPH #2:

- You will be required to provide 2 pieces of “EVIDENCE” to support your claim/thesis in paragraph #2. The first will be chosen from a provided list. The second piece of evidence will be more of your choosing with some requirements coming from the directions.
- Evidence #1 is worth 2 points. One point will be earned if the DESCRIPTION of the required evidence from the list is accurate and complete. Another point will be earned if the evidence from the list is LINKED BACK to the claim/thesis made in paragraph one.
- Evidence #2 is worth one point. A point is earned in this part if the DESCRIPTION of the evidence you choose is accurate and complete AND is sufficiently LINKED BACK to the claim/thesis made in paragraph one.
- For specificity purposes, you could have this paragraph includes “The first piece of evidence is...” and, ...“The second piece of evidence is...”
- **HUGE TIP: In this paragraph, “IDENTIFY, DESCRIBE, and LINK IT BACK” should be an integral part of your thinking, organizing and writing.**

PARAGRAPH 2
Evidence and
Reasoning
(paragraph #2)
(Cont.)

REASONING – Use reasoning to explain *HOW* the evidence supports the claim/thesis. 1 point

- Reasoning is worth 1 point and can be earned most easily by placing your line of reasoning (in as little as one sentence) as your LAST sentence in paragraph #2.
- Your reasoning should address: because/why, cause/effect, compare/contrast, etc. from the evidence earlier in the paragraph. Remember, to **LINK THE REASONING BACK** to the claim/thesis in your writing to increase the chances that you have stayed on task and will earn the point for the reasoning component of the FRQ.

PARAGRAPH 3

Rebuttal/ Refutation

- **Rebuttal/ Refutation – 1 point** – respond to an opposing or alternative perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal.
- In order to earn the point for this portion, you must demonstrate a correct understanding of the perspective and then refute or rebut the perspective.

No, No's

- Avoid “I think....” or “I feel”
- No pronouns
- No “government”
- No “politicians”
- Local/State governments examples MUST be linked to Federal government.

- “Explain” requires you to define and describe the case, term, concept that you are trying to explain in order to earn the point for the question. This ensures the reader that you truly know your stuff and are not trying to dupe them.