

AP GOPO FINAL REFLECTION: WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

At various times during the year, you conducted research on a **public policy issue in America that is meaningful to you**.

- You are to reflect on what you believe to be the future for your issue, by applying relevant concepts that you have learned in this course as well as current events. You will also reflect on potential policy you would like to see in the future.

Based on the current policymakers (Congress, President, Courts, Bureaucracy) and the current state of people and politics, and your knowledge of how our government works, what new policies—or removal of policies—do you envision for your issue? If you could create policy, what would you implement for your issue? How can YOU influence policy?

- **You will write a MINIMUM of 3 knowledgeable and persuasive letters** to the policymakers who are most connected to your issue—1 member of Congress (either house), 1 member of the bureaucracy OR federal courts, and 1 local or state politician.
 - Each letter should convey deep knowledge of your issue (see relevant questions below), justifying your writing!
 - Reference existing (and proposed, if applicable) relevant policies most connected to the receiver of the letter
 - Each letter should express your concerns OR your thanks.....and your hopes or even suggestions for the future.
 - Each letter should be approx. 350 - 500 words (1 page single spaced, 12 pt font, 1" margins).
 - Get creative with your envelopes! Please provide postage but DO NOT seal your letters! We'll review proper addressing ;)
- **You will Tweet a MINIMUM of THREE sources that justify your position to EACH person receiving a letter**, using hashtags that you think will attract the most views to your Tweet, and a brief description.
- **You will Tweet AT LEAST 1 special interest group who advocates for your issue** (same hashtags)
- **You will Tweet AT LEAST 1 member of the press** (same hashtags)
- **You will write a brief reflection (NO MORE THAN 2 PAGES) that explains and justifies your letters.** Create a thesis statement that makes an argument about how the American government has dealt with this public policy issue in the past, and your predictions—and hopes—or the future.

The Basics to Consider:

- Definition of the issue/ key terms related to the issue
- Key players involved (people, organizations, companies, agencies, committees, interest groups, etc.)
- Brief timeline of past to current events related to the issue
- Summary of controversies/debates regarding the issue
- Assessment of the government's past and current policies regarding the issue.
- Predictions about how this issue will continue to impact our government and society
- Your hopes for the future

Constitutional Underpinnings/Federalism (Chapters 1-3)

- How does the Constitution relate (or not relate) to the issue?
- How does the issue relate to federalism?
 - What is the role of the federal government?
 - What is the role of state and local governments?
 - To what extent does fiscal federalism play a role?
 - Is there cooperation and/or conflict between the various levels of government?

Political Beliefs, Political Behaviors, Mass Media (Chapters 6 +7)

- Is there consensus on this issue?
- How do conservatives feel about this issue?
- How do liberals feel about this issue?
- What do polls show about public opinion on this issue?
- How does the media cover this issue?
- How has the media influenced public opinion on this issue?
- How is this issue related to elections/electoral behavior?

Political Parties, Elections, and Interest Groups (Chapters 8- 10)

- What is the Republican Party's official position regarding this issue?
- What is the Democratic Party's official position regarding this issue?
- Is there disagreement within the Republican Party on this issue?
- Is there disagreement within the Democratic Party on this issue?
- What interest groups are connected to this issue and what are their positions?
- How influential have various interest groups been in shaping policy in relation to this issue?
- How important is this issue during political campaigns and elections?

Congress and Presidency (Chapters 11+12)

- What is the President's current position on this issue and what actions has he taken to influence government policy on this issue?
- What powers does the President have relative to other groups in influencing government policy on this issue?
- What is Congress' current position on this issue and what actions has it taken to influence government policy on this issue?
 - Is there agreement in Congress regarding this issue?
- What powers does Congress have relative to other groups in influencing policy on this issue?
- What committees and people in Congress are most influential in shaping policy on this issue?
- Will there be any significant change in regards to the government's policy on this issue in the near future as a result of the President or Congress' actions?

The Bureaucracy (chap 14)

- What departments, agencies, and/or commissions deal with this issue? Explain each of their roles.
- What power does the bureaucracy have in influencing policy and creating regulations in connection to this issue?

The Judiciary (chap 15)

- What judicial decisions have been made that have impacted this issue?
- Are there current cases pending that may have an impact on this issue?

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights (Chapters 4-5)

- What civil liberties are related to this issue?
 - First Amendment connections?
 - Due process connections?
 - Privacy rights connections?
 - Etc.
- What civil rights are related to this issue?
 - Are there racial, ethnic, gender, or religious connections?
 - Are there age, sexual orientation, or disability connections?
- What groups/governmental institutions have been involved in this issue and its impact on civil liberties and civil rights?