

DUE APRIL 24, 2020 11:00 PM

GOVT2305
Writing Assignment #2

The following are essay topics and questions for assignment #2. **Choose and complete only ONE question from Part A and another ONE question from Part B.** Which means you must divide your paper into two sections, Part A and Part B, and you must indicate which question you choose from each section.

Your essays in both sections must conform to all the requirements stated in the course syllabus for writing assignments.

PART A (required - choose only ONE question from this section - 25 points) **MIN 600 WORDS**

1. The second part of the course (Units 6 – 9) has examined four institutions: Congress, the presidency, the bureaucracy, and the Supreme Court. Identify what you believe are the major strengths and weaknesses of each of these institutions and explain why. Limit your essay to 600 words.
2. Describe the Electoral College. Why was it established? How has the Electoral College changed from its original form? How does it work now? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the Electoral College system? Limit your essay to no more than 600 words

PART B (required, choose only ONE question from this section - 25 points) **MIN 600 WORDS**

3. Write a brief essay entitled, “My Political Socialization.” Discuss the importance of your family, teachers, peers, religion, and so on in developing your political values and attitudes. Limit your essay to more than 600 words.
4. The third part of the course (Units 10 – 13) included sessions on political parties and interest groups. Parties and groups are intermediaries—each is a way in which people can make their views known to government and can try to influence public policy.
Question: In your view, which entity—parties or groups—has the greater influence on government policy? Explain the basis for your conclusion and provide examples in contemporary U.S. politics to support your position. Limit your essay to 600 words.
5. In the last section of the course (Units 13 & 14), we examined the politics of policy issues. In answering the question below, take the following two things

into account: 1) the contrasting positions of Republican lawmakers and Democratic lawmakers on the various issues we examined; 2) the nature of the Republican Party coalition and the nature of the Democratic Party coalition. (Party coalition is the term for the groups that tend to support a particular party, such as the voting support that black Americans give to the Democratic Party.)

Question: How does the nature of each political party's coalition explain the positions that each party's lawmakers take on policy issues? In your answer, provide an example from at least three of the four policy issue areas (the four areas were: social issues, fiscal and monetary issues, welfare and income issues, and trade issues). Limit your essay to no more than 600 words.

Assignment Grading Rubric

Performance Area	Rating = 5	Rating = 4	Rating = 3	Rating = 2	Score
A. Originality and Adherence to Instructor's guidelines.	Student's report is original work and clearly follows instructor's guidelines.	Student's report is original work and adequately follows instructor's guidelines	Student's report is not original work but adequately follows instructor's guidelines	Student's report is not original work and does not follow instructor's guidelines	
B. Structure	Written work has clear and appropriate beginning, development and conclusion. Paragraphing and transitions are also clear and appropriate.	Written work has adequate beginning, development and conclusion. Paragraphing and transitions are also adequate.	Written work has weak beginning, development and conclusion. Paragraphing and transitions are also deficient.	Organizational structure and paragraphing have serious and persistent errors.	
C. Mechanics	Written work has no major errors in word selection and use, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	Written work is relatively free of errors in word selection and use, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	Written work has several major errors in word selection and use, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	Written work has serious and persistent errors in word selection and use, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	
D. Content	The length of the written work provides in-depth coverage of the topic, and assertions are clearly supported by evidence.	The length of the written work is sufficient to cover the topic, and assertions are supported by evidence.	Written work does not do an adequate job of covering the assigned topic, and assertions are weakly supported by evidence.	Written work does not cover the assigned topic, and assertions are not supported by evidence.	

E. Overall Impression	Written work directly addresses main question or issue, and adds new insight to the subject not provided in lectures, readings, or class discussions. The author has retained nearly all of the knowledge presented in class. He/She is able to synthesize this knowledge in new ways and relate to material not covered in the course.	Written work competently addresses main question or issue, but does not add much new insight into the subject. That said, it is clear that the author has learned a great deal in class and is able to communicate this knowledge to others.	Written work attempts to address main question or issue, but fails. The author has retained some information from the course, but does not fully understand its meaning or context and cannot clearly convey it to others.	Written work does NOT address main question or issue, and it is obvious that author has not retained any information from the course.	
Maximum Points = 25 Points					