

POLS 403 – FINAL PAPER TOPIC

Each student will submit a FINAL TERM PAPER via CANVAS by 10pm by Monday, December 14th in the format of a 6-8 page essay (Times New Roman, font 12, double-space, 1-inch margins). Your response must **include references to the course readings and lectures** we've covered in this course.

This is a formal essay, so it must be well-organized, well-written, and well-thought out. It should begin with an introduction that includes your thesis statement, follow with a well-organized body, and end with a conclusion. Again, your essay must draw on concepts and examples from the readings and lectures.

TOPIC

While sharing similar foundational principles with the federal government, states have also reformed themselves in ways that make them more connected with their citizens. For this assignment, discuss the divergent forms of governing between the national, state, and local governments. Please support your argument with evidence from course readings and lectures.

To further assist you in answering this topic, please include responses to the following questions. Also, you are encouraged to juxtapose California politics against national politics when possible.

- 1. What is the general difference in approach to governing between the states and national government as it pertains to their respective citizenry?**
- 2. How is this difference seen in the design of state constitutions?**
- 3. What powers reside with the people? That is, how do citizens engage with the government at each level? Across each branch?**
- 4. Finally, to what extent is party activity important to state and local engagement?**