

Government 2306: Texas Government

Writing Assignment #1

PROMPT

Write a research, analysis essay based on the following prompt.

- First, review a number of Texas newspaper editorials/opinions/op-eds. The subject of the editorial/opinion/op-eds that you review must be directly related to a Texas public policy issue. (In particular, one excellent source of editorials/opinions/op-eds is the Texas Tribune. You can Google the word “Tribtalk,” or use the URL address: <https://www.tribtalk.org/> On the Tribtalk main page, at the lower left corner, the “More Columns” button will give you even more editorials to review.) Then, select one editorial/opinion/op-ed. Finally, write an analysis essay, one that uses at least two supporting sources in addition to the editorial/opinion/op-ed that you chose, in which you agree or disagree with the point(s) of view or statements expressed in the editorial/opinion/op-ed that you chose. In writing this essay, be sure to provide some context regarding the subject of your editorial/opinion/op-ed. (CT/CM/PR).

ASSIGNMENT EXPECTATIONS

1. Use at least two **(2) different outside sources** of information plus the editorial (properly cited).
2. Write at least 500 words of text (not counting your Reference or Works Cited page).
3. Adhere to academic-style writing, structure, grammar, and punctuation rules.
4. Utilize appropriate in-text source citations.
5. Include a properly formatted Reference or Works Cited page.
6. Consult your Grading Rubric for grading information.

PURPOSE

1. To stimulate critical thinking about the subject
2. To enhance your communication skills
3. To advance your understanding of personal responsibility
4. To practice critical and analytical reading and writing skills
5. To practice the process of research and writing

AUDIENCE

Academic—members of your GOVT 2306 class

LENGTH AND FORMAT

- At least 500 words (not counting your Reference or Works Cited page). A significant number of points will be deducted from your paper’s grade if it falls short of 500 words.
- You must use appropriate MLA or APA rules for citation and formatting.

Due Dates – The final version of Writing Assignment #1 is due on **Wednesday, November 13, 2019**. Any late paper will automatically lose 10 points. Additionally, 2.5 points will be deducted from your paper for each calendar day it is late. No assignment will be accepted after Sunday, November 17, 2019.

NOTE 1: It is very important that you provide a link or URL address of the editorial/opinion/op-ed that you will be analyzing so that I can easily find and read the editorial/opinion/op-ed that you chose.

NOTE 2: Do not use Wikipedia or any other “summary” websites as a source for your paper.

NOTE 3: No more than 20% of your writing assignment’s text should be directly quoted material.

NOTE 4: Plagiarism will result in you receiving an automatic “F” and zero points for this assignment.

NOTE 5: You must submit an electronic (MS Word) copy of your paper to this class’s Blackboard course site no later than **Wednesday, November 13, 2019**. Failure to submit an electronic copy of your paper to Blackboard will result in an automatic “F” and zero points for this assignment.