

## SUMMER ASSIGNMENT - ESSAY AP U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

### **Electoral College Essay (50 point major assessment)**

The Electoral College is much discussed and often criticized as a relic of a bygone era, put in place by the framers who had limited confidence in the average American's ability to make political decisions. Some view it as undemocratic and not in line with a more informed citizen base of today. An increasing number of alternatives to the Electoral College have been offered and 5 current proposals are gaining attention.

To review these proposals go to: [http://archive.fairvote.org/e\\_college/reform.htm](http://archive.fairvote.org/e_college/reform.htm)

After you review the first alternatives please write an essay based on the following:

- a. **Introduction** - offer a brief explanation of the electoral college and why it was established by the founders, include a thesis statement. - **10 points**
- b. **Evaluate** two recent or historic **problems** with the electoral college. For this you may use newspaper articles or other reliable sources to ground your argument in facts. (2000 and 2016 elections provide a lot of information on this) - **10 points**
- c. **Choose** two of the **alternatives** that seem the most fair and viable, identifying pros and cons to each system. - **10 points**
- d. **Select ONE** of the two alternatives as the best method, being sure to note why your choice better fits contemporary American society and thus offers a modern alternative to the current system. - **5 points**
- e. **Explain how** the system you propose could possibly be adopted (would it require an amendment or necessitate state action?) - **5 points**
- f. **Conclusion** – revisit the reasons the electoral college is controversial and once again reiterate that your chosen method would be more suitable. **5 points**
- g. **Include a works cited page and citations** in proper MLA format - **5 points**

**ALL PAPERS ARE DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IN GOOGLE**

Plagiarism of any form (copying from another student, the internet or the book without properly citing) will result in a 0 on the project, report to the administration and removal from the class.

## **CURRENT EVENT SUMMER ASSIGNMENT AP U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS**

**Current Event file (25 point minor assessment, each article worth 5 points)**

**TASK:** Find 5 current event articles, one for each of the following topics:

- a. Congress
- b. The President
- c. The Supreme Court
- d. Political Party or interest group
- e. Polling information (find a poll that gives information about public opinion on an issue, predicts election outcome, shows presidential approval ratings, etc)

For each article you will fill out the form provided, which includes writing a summary of the information you learn.

## **Current Event File**

For each topic below, find a current event article and fill out the required information.

### **Congress**

Article Name:

Author:

Publication:

Date:

URL Address:

Summary (minimum of 5-7 sentences)

### **The President**

Article Name:

Author:

Publication:

Date:

URL Address:

Summary (minimum of 5-7 sentences)

### **The Supreme Court**

Article Name:

Author:

Publication:

Date:

URL Address:

Summary (minimum of 5-7 sentences)

### **Political Party or Interest Group**

Article Name:

Author:

Publication:

Date:

URL Address:

Summary (minimum of 5-7 sentences)

**Polling Information** (find a poll that gives information about public opinion on an issue, predicts election outcome, shows presidential approval ratings, etc)

Article Name:

Author:

Publication:

Date:

URL Address:

Summary (minimum of 5-7 sentences)