

Government Written Assignment

Objective:

The objective of this assignment is to determine the extent to which students can follow directions, use their critical thinking skills to evaluate scholarly work, and to research a topic, and present it in a manner that reflects their understanding of the necessary components of college writing. This is intended to be an individual assignment with no collusion or plagiarizing. Please refer to the library resources for how to avoid the latter; as there are severe penalties for noncompliance (students may get an F in the assignment for plagiarizing).

Directions:

- ❖ Choose a set of Issues from the Reader: The Enduring Debate, which has been assigned for your class. These are denoted by “Reader Issue [],” on your syllabus. If there are more than 2 articles in that section only select 2 of those articles. Make sure that each article is expounding a different point of view on the subject matter.
- ❖ Identify the section of the syllabus that it fits with eg. The Constitution, Elections, Congress etc. This is a good way to check if you have chosen an appropriate issue. If you choose one that is not assigned for your class, your paper will be severely penalized.
- ❖ Use the 8 Elements of Thought to evaluate each article (2 pages each). For the online course this can be found under the Critical Thinking icon on the web page, for the regular classes refer to the hand outs given by the professor.
- ❖ Relate the articles to the text i.e. do they support what the text has to say about the issue or not. Go beyond the obvious and state the relationship by clearly juxtaposing what the articles say with what the text say about the same point(s).
- ❖ Take a position (for or against) and be prepared to argue it with supporting documentation. You must have at least six outside, reputable sources to support your arguments. Your text books and the Reader, while they should be included in the works cited page if you use them, are not counted as outside sources. You are required to consult a librarian (virtual or face-to-face) in order to maximize the use of the library database. The Social Sciences database, along with articles from JSTOR, books or ebooks should be included in your sources. Only information from these reputable sources will be counted. As you write, refer to “Questions Using the Elements of Thought” to fine tune your work.
- ❖ Your conclusion must have a recommendation as to how best to deal with the problem/situation.
- ❖ You must type in normal font (12) and it must be double spaced.
- ❖ Paper lengths are at least 8 pages not counting the works cited and cover pages.
- ❖ Paper must have a cover page with your name, class section and time, date, the professor’s name.
- ❖ All sources must be cited using the MLA format.