

All students are required to write a paper on one of the topics listed below. The essay requires that you research and analyze a question of importance to contemporary American Politics. Your paper should be **balanced** reviewing both sides of the question and considering the arguments and evidence raised by supporters of both sides. Evaluate the arguments and evidence; then, form your own conclusions and defend them with logical arguments and evidence.

Your research must be based on at least **five primary sources** (books and articles on the topics) not more than two of which may be internet postings (an article that you find on the internet is fine if it existed first on paper in a library), but only two blogs or other non-published sources). Wikipedia does NOT count as a primary source and should not be used. Your essay should summarize, synthesize and evaluate the research from the various sources and then form an independent answer of your own to the question you are asking based on your research and analysis.

The paper must be at least six (6) pages in length but not greater than eight (8) pages. It must be typed, double spaced, with 1 inch margins. Papers must be stapled in the upper left hand corner. Paper clips, binders, duo-tangs, folders or other covers/holders for the paper are not permitted.

Papers will be evaluated both on the quality of ideas, arguments, and evidence presented and on the quality of style, grammar, and organization of the paper. I highly recommend purchasing Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*. This book will help improve the quality of your papers, and it will also come in useful throughout your college career.

Papers must include proper citations for material taken from your sources including both direct quotations and information that you paraphrase. The citation should include the author's last name and publication date (i.e., Mishler, 1999). A list of all sources used in the paper should be included at the end of the paper giving the author's full name, date of publication, source title, publisher or internet URL.

Students have the option of writing a draft of the paper, receiving feedback and then rewriting the paper. If you choose this option the first draft of the paper is worth 10% of the total grade. It will be evaluated and returned to you. You may then revise and resubmit the essay for a final grade, which will count an additional 15% of the total course grade.

If you choose not to rewrite the paper, then the first (and only) draft will be worth 25% of your grade.

Papers must be your own work. Anyone caught plagiarizing or cheating in any way will receive an E for the course, unless you have been caught cheating previously, in which case your violation will be referred to the university for more serious sanctions possible including suspension from school (Hint: don't cheat!)

The first draft of the paper (if you choose to write a draft) is due on **March 9th**; the final version of your paper is due on **April 13th**.

Late papers will be penalized 1 letter grade for each **class day** they are late.

APPROVED TOPICS:

- 1. The Causes of Political Polarization in American: What can't we all get along?**
- 2. Deadlock of Democracy: Why can't Congress and the President get anything done?**
- 3. Income Inequality in America. Is it a problem and how can it be fixed?**

Each Student should work with one TA. The TA assigned to depends on your Last name.

Students whose last names begin with the letters:

A-F	should work with	Cheryl Ellenwood (cheryle@email.arizona.edu)
G-M	should work with	Ashley Harris (ashshea@email.arizona.edu)
N-Z	should work with	Toribio (Toby) Lacarra (tlacarr@gmail.com)

Please note: Do NOT contact the TAs or me for assistance with the paper within 48 hours (two days) of the due-date. We are happy to help you but only if you take responsibility for starting the paper well in advance of the deadline.