

AP AMERICAN GOVERNMENT  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 1100

For the final quarter of the semester, students taking the class for honors/college credit may choose the “research option.” Students choosing this option will write a 12-15 page research paper on an aspect of American government concerning a current issue facing America domestically or a historical event in American political history. This paper, worth 200 points, will be done in conjunction with 5 topic reflections, worth a total of 100 points, during the quarter that will replace the final two short answer tests and the final book review.

### TOPIC REFLECTIONS

Students choosing the research option will be required to write two-page handwritten (one-page typed – double-spaced with normal font (12) and margins (1”) and in Times New Roman) reflections on topics discussed in class or read about in the textbook. A total of five is due for the quarter. One reflection must be reserved for *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. Each reflection is worth 20 points.

### RESEARCH PAPER

**Sample Topics:** All papers must focus some aspect of government in America or the role America government played in the process. Possible research topics include, but are not limited to:

Health Care	Any controversial presidential election
Social Security	The Great Compromise
Social Welfare	Any famous Supreme Court decision
Civil Rights	Japanese Relocation Camps
Voting Rights	A history of any specific civil liberty
The Sedition Acts (1798 and 1917)	The War Powers Act
The economic, foreign, or social policy of President _____	
Any government scandal	Progressivism
The Red Scare	1960s liberalism
Oil dependency	Drugs in America
Any war as it relates to the principle of “separation of powers”	
Crime in America	A special interest group
Impact of media on government	The Articles of Confederation
Populism	Any regulatory agency of the bureaucracy

This is just a sampling of possible topics. Any topic that deals with the American government is appropriate for the paper. Please see the teacher if you have any questions. Please be careful in choosing a topic that is either too broad or too narrowly focused.

**Style:** The paper must have a cover page and 12-15 full pages of text (double spaced; one-inch margins on top, bottom, left and right; 12-point font, Times New Roman). You may use either APA style for references or the MLA method. Whichever style of sourcing you choose, you need to be consistent with that style throughout the paper. Please be sure to have your paper proofread before turning in. Silly spelling and grammar mistakes can turn the most intelligently argued paper into a paper of middle school quality very quickly.

**References:** The paper must include a reference page (please use only the references used in the paper on the reference page). The minimum number of unique references will be 10. At least eight (8) references should be from books and/or journal articles (non-Internet sources). A journal article found on an Internet database such as EBSCO does count as a non-Internet source.

**Submission:** Students should email their paper to Mr. Jones at either [sjones2@hazelwoodschoools.org](mailto:sjones2@hazelwoodschoools.org) or [sejones@mysocialstudiesclass.com](mailto:sejones@mysocialstudiesclass.com) by 8:00 am on the day it is due. Please send it with a subject line so that it avoids spam filters.