

## 6. Directions

### Step A: Grade The Federal Government

- a) Grade the federal government's current performance as it relates to goals stated in opening preamble of constitution. Must correctly calculate your average total score.
- b) Thorough completion and submitted on time, counts as 2 homework and 2 classwork grades.

### Step B: Interview

- a) Conduct interview of **5** individuals: **3** adults (from inside and outside of WVHS) and **2** WVHS (11th or 12th grade) students.
- b) Participants can **NOT** be from this Government class.
- c) May include yourself as **1** participant.
- d) If adult or student already took survey, they can **NOT** be used twice.
- e) Each participant will answer a series of questions. See attached documents.
- f) For each participant: a) record background information. b) record responses to questions. See attached documents.
- g) Thorough completion of interview and submitted on time, counts as 2 test grades.

### Step C: Letter

- a) Task 1: must address both essential questions of the project. Task 2: must address **1** compelling question. It can come from the generated list provided or original created and pre-approved question.
- b) Use research collected from interview and own experiences to address the two tasks.
- c) Must use at least **1** source for information/research used to address the two tasks. A Works Cited page will be required- MLA Format. It will handed in via Google Doc. See attached document.
- d) The letter will be professionally structured and written. See attached documents. You will decide the best individual to receive letter in order to affect change. See attached documents.
- e) The introduction has been prewritten and will be shared via Google Doc. Use font size 12, times new roman font style, double-spaced. Construct letter in Google Doc. You are responsible ONLY for printing out your letter, not sending it.
- f) Must incorporate elements of Harvard University's Youth Participatory Politics Research Network- 10 Questions for Change Makers. See attached document.
- g) Will be graded using the writing rubric.
- h) Thorough completion of letter and submitted on time, counts as 2 test grades.

### Step D: Tweet

- a) Construct **1** tweet based on Task 1 and 2 of the project. Convey your message!
- b) Student's tweet will be shared with Harvard University's Youth Participatory Politics Research Network to be put on their website. If you do not want your tweet/name shared, please let me know as soon as possible.
- c) Will be graded using the tweet rubric.
- d) Thorough completion and submitted on time, counts as 2 homework and 2 classwork grades.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## Step A. Grade The Federal Government And Explanation of Grades



<p>1. Form a more perfect union</p> <p><b>Numerical Grade:</b> _____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____.</p>
<p>2. Establish justice</p> <p><b>Numerical Grade:</b> _____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____.</p>
<p>3. Insure domestic tranquility</p> <p><b>Numerical Grade:</b> _____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____.</p>
<p>4. Provide for common defense</p> <p><b>Numerical Grade:</b> _____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____.</p>
<p>5. Promote the general welfare</p> <p><b>Numerical Grade:</b> _____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____.</p>
<p>6. Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity</p> <p><b>Numerical Grade:</b> _____</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____.</p>
<p><b>Total Score (average):</b> _____</p>	

## Step B. Interview: The Questions

1. Do agree or disagree with my assessment of the federal government's current performance? Why or why not?

2. What does it mean to be an American? Explain.

3. Which political party/political ideology do you identify with at this moment? Explain.

4. Do you think voting is a right, duty or responsibility? Why?

5. What was the first election you voted in? If you have never voted, why not? If you have not been able to vote, do you intend to vote soon? Explain.

6a. How would you grade the Trump Administration thus far?

6b. How effective has the administration been at protecting and enhancing natural, civil, and/or constitutional rights? Support your answers.

7. Two weeks after the Parkland shooting, President Trump held a meeting with lawmakers on school safety and gun violence. Do you agree or disagree with President Trump's statements? Explain.

*"I like taking the guns early, like in this crazy man's case that just took place in Florida... to go to court would have taken a long time."*

*"Take the guns first, go through due process second."*

Source: "Trump: 'Take the guns first, go through due process second', The Hill, Brett Samuels, February 28th, 2018

8. What new law (solutions/ideas) can you recommend that local, state, or federal government must do to improve protecting and enhancing a citizen's natural, civil, and/or constitutional rights in order to form "a more perfect union"?

9. Free choice: ask one question from the list of compelling questions or create one and have it pre-approved. *\*centered around an issue important to you.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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<b>Student #1:</b>  _____ (first name)  _____ (last name)	<b>Age: _____ Gender: _____ Grade Level: _____</b>  <b>Date of interview: _____ Location of interview: _____</b>  <b>Signature of participant:</b> _____.
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 **Step B. Interview: Participant's Responses** 

<b>1.</b>	_____ _____ _____ _____.
<b>2.</b>	_____ _____ _____ _____.
<b>3.</b>	_____ _____ _____ _____.
<b>4.</b>	_____ _____ _____ _____.
<b>5.</b>	_____ _____ _____ _____.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## Step B. Interview: Participant's Responses



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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<p><b>Student #2:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>(first name)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>(last name)</p>	<p><b>Age:</b> _____ <b>Gender:</b> _____ <b>Grade Level:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Date of interview:</b> _____ <b>Location of interview:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Signature of participant:</b></p> <p>_____.</p>
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**Step B. Interview: Participant's Responses**



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Step B. Interview: Participant's Responses



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Adult #1:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(first name)</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(last name)</p>	<p><b>Age:</b> _____ <b>Gender:</b> _____ <b>Grade Level:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Date of interview:</b> _____ <b>Location of interview:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Signature of participant:</b></p> <p>_____.</p>
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**Step B. Interview: Participant's Responses**



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Step B. Interview: Participant's Responses



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Adult #2:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(first name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(last name)

**Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Gender:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade Level:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of interview:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location of interview:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of participant:**  
\_\_\_\_\_.



**Step B. Interview: Participant's Responses**



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Step B. Interview: Participant's Responses



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Adult #3:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(first name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(last name)

**Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Gender:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade Level:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of interview:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location of interview:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of participant:**  
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**Step B. Interview: Participant's Responses**



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Step B. Interview: Participant's Responses



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## Step C. Letter

### Background

What is participation in government? One example can be to propose a bill in hopes it becomes law. A legislator can introduce a bill to a legislative body on your behalf. Laws aim to correct societal wrongs, create/foster stability, and to protect/enhance rights of citizens. Therefore, select a topic of your concern or interest.

Use research from Step A and B as well as at least 1 other source. A works cited page must be included. See below. The letter will be directly mailed to the appropriate individual that you decide in-order to affect the change desired. You have the option to send as many letters to legislators or private individuals as possible.

### Directions

- a) Task 1: must address both essential questions of the project. Task 2: must address **1** compelling question. It can come from the generated list provided or original created and pre-approved question.
- b) Use research collected from interview and own experiences to address the two tasks.
- c) Must use at least **1** source for information/research used to address the two tasks. A Works Cited page will be required- MLA Format. It will handed in via Google Doc. See attached document.
- d) The letter will be professionally structured and written. See attached documents. You will decide the best individual to receive letter in order to affect change. See attached documents.
- e) The introduction has been prewritten and will be shared via Google Doc. Use font size 12, times new roman font style, double-spaced. Construct letter in Google Doc. You are responsible ONLY for printing out your letter, not sending it.
- f) Must incorporate elements of Harvard University's Youth Participatory Politics Research Network- 10 Questions for Change Makers. See attached document.
- g) Will be graded using the writing rubric.
- h) Thorough completion of letter and submitted on time, counts as **2** test grades.

### Structure of Letter

#### Body Paragraph 1: Context

Share lessons, ideas, and conclusions YOU learned from Step A and B.

#### Body Paragraph 2: Proposal, Rationale, and Persuasion

Explain your law (ideas/solutions) to address Task 1 and 2. Use research from Step A and B as well as sourced information and ethical reasons for the law's necessity. Explain how you will advocate for change towards the individuals from Step B.

## Step C. Letter

### Body Paragraph 3: Conclusion

Foreshadow possible outcomes and accomplishments of the law in the present and/or future. Use research from Step A and B as well as sourced information and ethical reasons. State one way how the legislator/ individual could contact you. Give thanks for them taking time to read your letter.

### Works Cited Page

Sources can be from online, books, magazines, etc. Please be sure to appropriate citation for each source.

### Directions

Remember you need at least **1** source of valid information to be used in your letter. Please visit <http://www.easybib.com/> and generate the correct citation. After completing your works cited page in a separate Google Doc, **MUST** be submitted into Google Form.

## Questions To Consider

**(from Harvard University's Youth Participatory Politics Research Network)**

### Are You A Change Maker?

Do You Want to Design Equitable, Efficacious, and Self-Protective, Civic-Political Agency?

### Ten Questions For Participatory Politics

1. Why does it matter to me?

2. How much should I share?

3. How do I make it about more than myself?

4. Where do we start?

5. How can we make it easy and engaging for others to join in?

6. How do we get wisdom from crowds?

7. How do we handle the downside of crowds?

8. Are we pursuing voice or influence or both?

9. How do we get from voice to change?

10. How can we find allies?

## Step C. Letter

### Example

June 7, 2017

Councilman Vincent C. Gray  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 406  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Councilman Vincent Gray,

Hello and good day. My name is Sarah Markowitz. I am currently a twelfth grade student at Warwick Valley High School located in Warwick, New York. Over the past few months I have learned many things in the state-mandated Participation in Government course. As a concerned and engaged citizen from New York's 18th Congressional district I am writing you this letter. The purpose of my letter is because exercise should be required in the workforce. This document will discuss my research and address factual realities as well as elaborate how my law (ideas) will improve American society in the future.

As many people may be aware of, there is an obesity epidemic in the U.S. right now and it has been here for years. This epidemic is not only costing the government billions of dollars each year due to health care costs but it is also greatly reducing the productivity of businesses all across America each and every day. So, why hasn't curing and preventing obesity become a national priority? Obesity can be caused by a multitude of factors. The most notable, though, are individual and environmental factors (Center of Disease Control). Individual factors include dietary patterns and physical activity levels and environmental factors include the types of food eaten in each society along with the overall activity level of that community. The poor diets and physical inactivity of many communities across the country are causing people to become obese, which is the leading cause of death in America due to all of its negative impacts on the body (such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer). What many people fail to realize (usually due to a lack of education on the subject of health and fitness) is that obesity and the life changing negative effects of it are quite easily avoided without medications or special treatments. A healthy diet and even some exercise can and does go a long way. While a healthy diet and exercise positively affects the physical body, such as losing body fat, many people may not know that it also has very many positive mental benefits. Scientists over the years have researched and found that exercise impacts the way we think. They have found that regular exercise helps improve concentration, sharpen memory, and lowers stress levels along with many other health benefits that can greatly improve a person's productivity in the workplace (Friedman). Another study conducted by the American College of Sports Medicine discovered that workers who exercised 30-60 minutes (the national daily recommended amount) after lunch experienced about a 15% performance boost in workers. Despite these findings, though, "...nearly 80 percent of American adults don't get the recommended amount of exercise each week." (Holmes). With all of this information in mind, I have created an idea for a law to which I feel is vitally necessary to boost the economy, ensure a better quality of life for many individuals and greatly decrease the national debt.

There are any number of reasons as to why a person does not exercise on a regular basis or at all. But I think many of us can agree that the most common excuse used is that the person "does not have the



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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