

## Semester Project (FINAL EXAM) for Participation in Government

You are to choose as many of the following mini projects as it takes for you to reach a project grade that you can be proud of. The bigger projects are worth more so you won't have to do as many. The shorter projects might be better for you, but you would need to do more of them. Most students will find a balance between the two. Remember that this project accounts for 20% of your course grade. You will thank yourself later if you get to work now!

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

\* ***What do you mean by mandatory?***

Mandatory means "it must be done". The points for these may not be made up in any other way.

\* ***What happens if I fail the project?***

The project is 1/5 of the course grade. For every point that you fail the project by, you grade somewhere else (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Average or 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Average) must make up for it. For example: If you earned a 50% on the project, you would have to earn an average of 75% in the other 2 components of the course grade.

\* ***Are the individual components of the project graded?***

Yes, based on the number of points each component is worth. It is possible, for example, to only earn 10 points on a 20pt. component

\* ***How is the project grade calculated?***

The number of points will be totaled to a Max. of 100

\* ***Is it possible to earn more than 100% on the project?***

No. Once you reach 100 points, you cannot add more. HOWEVER, you may choose to do more for extra credit to help your 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter average.

\* ***Are all project components going to be done outside of class?***

Not necessarily all of them. Some class time will be allocated to working on project components.

\* ***Many of these components require 1-3 "pages" of writing. What do you consider a "page"?***

I have found it easier to define a page as 300 words. That is what a page is using 1 inch margins, a 12 pt font, and Times New Roman.

\* ***Can the same topic be used for different components.***

Every effort should be made to use different issues, but overlap can occur. For example: You CAN use a current event article that is about the same topic as your Article Analysis as long as you don't try to use the same article. You CANNOT use a portion of your taped interview for your documentary. If you think there might be a problem, you should ask me.

**Senior PIG Project Mandatory:**

**Points   Max Points**

- |    |    |  |
|----|----|--|
| 10 | 20 | * Attend two government meetings and complete required paperwork |
| 5  | 10 | * 2 News Program (1 Hour Min.) Summaries (5 pts. ea.)            |

**Senior PIG Project Possibilities:**

- |    |    |   |
|----|----|---|
| 5  | 15 | * 5 Hours of Community Service  |
| 5  | 10 | * Extra government meetings   |
| 50 | 50 | * Public Policy Article Analysis  |
| 20 | 20 | * Interview an elected official   |
| 10 | 10 | * Interview a business owner  |
| 10 | 10 | * Interview a member of law enforcement   |
| 10 | 15 | * Write a letter to public official focusing on a particular topic of interest to you and within the scope of the officials duties.   |
| 10 | 20 | * Record a program or program segment that addresses a public policy. Prepare discussion Questions (at least 5 per ½ hour).   |
| 25 | 25 | * Prepare a Power Point presentation that illustrates government at work in your community. Minimum 20 slides.  |
| 20 | 20 | * Prepare a video recorded documentary on a problem or issue within your community. Minimum 10 minutes. (max 20 pts. .. 10 pts. if it is done entirely in the high school)  |
| 5  | 20 | * Find a political cartoon dealing with a public policy. Write a one page essay that explains the Meaning, symbols, and/or issues. (5 pts. max 4 cartoons)  |
| 10 | 20 | * Record a 30 second Public Service Announcement. Max 3 people per group and 2 PSA's  |
| 5  | 5  | * Construct a chart/diagram/poster showing the structure of the New York State Court System.  |
| 5  | 5  | *Construct a chart/diagram/poster showing the process by which a bill is passed into law in New York State.   |
| 5  | 5  | * Construct a chart/diagram/poster showing the process by which a bill is passed into law at the federal level.   |
| 5  | 5  | * <b>Construct</b> a chart/diagram/poster showing the structure of Morrisville-Eatons government. Indicate which offices are elected and which are appointed. Include the names of those currently Holding those offices. |
| 10 | 10 | * Create a shirt with a public policy message. You must wear the shirt to school so it must meet the school dress code for style and "content"  |

10	20	* Draw your own political cartoon. Write a one page essay that explains the meaning, symbols, and/or issues.
20	20	* Find a song about a historical event or a public policy issue and be prepared to play it for the class. A typed version of the lyrics must be provided and you must write a 1 page essay about the meaning of the song, its importance, and why you chose it.
50	50	* Response journal
20	20	* <b>Recite</b> , from memory, a historically relevant speech or document. This speech must be approved by me for length and content.
25	25	* Create a reenactment of a historical event. Can have a maximum of 6 people in the group.
10	10	* Create an Electoral College prediction by Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup> . To be posted in the classroom. (whoever comes closest to being correct will be awarded an extra 5 pts.).
_____	_____	<b>TOTALS</b>

*General Information (Please see me about any questions you may have)*

### Community Service

- Community Service is defined as any act in which you serve the people where you live, work or go to school.
- Things that ARE accepted: yard work for elderly /disabled NON family member of your community, doing stats for a sports team, working the Sports Booster's concession stand, participating in a charity event (i.e. Relay for Life), work at A Clothes Closet, food pantry, working in the nursery at your church,
- Things that ARE NOT accepted: anything that you are paid for (including fundraising for your club, class or sports team), babysitting a family member, staying at your paid job for an extra hour without being paid, court-appointed community service, any service that you miss school for or is required for another course.
- Appropriate paperwork must be completed and turned in to receive credit.

### Attend two government meetings and complete required paperwork

- You must stay for at least 2 hours
- Most students attend school board meetings, but other meeting ideas: Town, Village, county board of supervisors, town court, county court
- If a meeting is canceled, you do not get credit. If the meeting is shortened (usually because they go into "special session") then it does count.
- Appropriate paperwork must be completed and turned in to receive credit.

### Extra government meetings (max 2 )

- \* Same rules as above apply.

### Public Policy Analysis

- \* You will choose ONE topic (suggestions will be provided) that deals with public policy. You will find three scholarly sources that address that topic. You will hand them into me for approval. You will write a detailed analysis of each article.



### **Interview an elected official**

\* You must write a summary of the interview 2-3 pages.

\* Possible question topics: apathy (causes, solutions, size of the problem), biographical info (motivation for seeking office), election process (is it good- does the most qualified person get the job), what are the qualifications for his/her job (mandatory or preferred), what are the duties, what are the major issues facing this area today, what would he/she like to see happen in the area in the next 10 years.

### **Interview a business owner**

\* Same as above

\* Possible question topics: eminent domain, OSHA regulations, minimum wage, labor laws, tax subsidies, self-employment taxes...

### **Interview a member of law enforcement**

\* Same as above

\* Possible question topics: funding, counties taking over town police agencies, punishment, what they feel is the most urgent problem facing your community...

### **Write a letter to public official (10 pts.; an additional 5 pts. will be earned if there is a response from the official)**

\* Letter must be typed using correct format, grammar and spell checked. It must be signed in blue or black ink. It must address a public policy issue that the official can have an impact on. (ex. Your congressman cannot do anything about New York State's death penalty) It should include some facts, not just your opinion.

\* Hand in the letter with an addressed and stamped envelope.

### **Record a program or program segment that addresses a public policy. Prepare discussion questions (at least 5 per ½ hour).**

\* Show must have aired after August 2012

\* Submitting a tape and worksheet does not guarantee that it will be accepted. The segment must address a public policy issue. The topic should not address "character issues" (politician's affair or sexual preference)

### **Prepare a Power**

**er Point presentation that illustrates government at work in your community. Minimum 20 slides.**

### **Prepare a video recorded documentary on a problem or issue within your community.**

\* The video must be at least 10 minutes long with narration and interviews. All sides of the issue must be presented. The entire documentary must be serious.

Find a political cartoon dealing with a public policy. Write a one page essay that explains the meaning, symbols, and/or issues.

\* Write a ONE page essay explaining the meaning of the cartoon and issue involved

Record a 30 second Public Service Announcement. Max 3 people per group and 2 PSA's per person.

\* Chose a relevant topic that you want to provide sound advice for (using drugs, smoking, texting and driving..). Your message must include relevant facts to back up your advice. It can be "entertaining", but the message must be serious.

Construct a chart/diagram/poster showing the structure of the New York State Court System.

\* The chart must be 18 x 24 inches and color must be used. Must be neat.

Construct a chart/diagram/poster showing the process by which a bill is passed into law in New York State.

\* The chart must be 18 x 24 inches and color must be used. Must be neat.

Construct a chart/diagram/poster showing the process by which a bill is passed into law at the federal level.

\* The chart must be 18 x 24 inches and color must be used. Must be neat.

Construct a chart/diagram/poster showing the structure of Morrisville - Eaton's "government." Indicate which offices are elected and which are appointed. Include the names of those currently holding those offices.

\* The chart must be 18 x 24 inches and color must be used. Must be neat.

Create a T-shirt design with a public policy message

\* All slogans and graphics must be your own. All slogans and graphics must be SCHOOL APPROPRIATE. Design should include more than 1 color.

Draw your own political cartoon.

\* Message must address a public policy. Any artwork or words must be your own. Include a one page essay that explains the meaning, symbols, and/or issues.

Find a song about a historical event or a public policy issue and be prepared to play it for the class.

\* Provide a typed version of the lyrics for the class and be prepared to play it and lead a discussion about its message. You also must write a 1 page essay about the meaning of the song, its importance, and why you chose it.

Response journal (50 pts.)

\* You will be provided with weekly questions that you will provide a response to. For the most part, there are no "right or wrong" answers, but you must answer the question completely. Your responses must be typed.

Recite, from memory, a historically relevant speech or document.

\* Submit your proposed recitation to me before you begin preparing. Minimum 278 words (Gettysburg Address). You can use portions of long speeches. You must be prepared to tell the class the historical circumstances surrounding the speech/document.

**Create a reenactment of a historical event . Can have a maximum of 6 people in the group.**

\* Submit your proposed reenactment to me before you begin preparing. This "skit" must be at least 10 minutes long. It can be recorded and played for the class or performed live. This could be a "Dinner Party" project. (See your teacher for further information)

**Create an Electoral college map showing who you predict will win each State (or part of a state) using a method other than the traditional Red & Blue coloring.**

- This project will be posted publicly and must contain final totals for the candidates.