**American Government and Economic Systems**

**Integrated Core Assessment Spring 2019**

Completion of the Integrated Core Assessment for American Government and Economic Systems fulfills the mission statement for the course: Students will become informed, effective decision-makers as well as active participants in America’s political and economic system.

**Task and Purpose:**

Core 1

* Students will identify a topic or dilemma that confronts America’s economic and political system.
  + Any topic students choose must involve both political and economic elements relevant to the course of study (these elements are those that you defined yesterday)
* Students will then conduct research on the background and history of the issue as well as the arguments made on both sides of the issue.

Core 2

* Students will use the research completed in Core 1 to decide on which side of the issue they support and determine a proper plan of action to address the issue

**Final Products:** Students are responsible for turning in two (2) integrated core assessment products.

Core 1

* A four to five-page informational essay based on research on the topic students have chosen.
  + The essay will include background and history of the issues, reasons why the issue should be addressed and the arguments for both sides of the issue
  + The essay should include information from at least five sources with in-text citations and a works cited page

Core 2

* Your stance on the issue and a proper plan of action to address the issue presented in a persuasive letter to a public official. The letter will highlight various aspects of the issue and the plan of action.

**Possible Topics for Research:** Consider these broad topics. Students will choose a specific problem related to one of the topic areas listed below. Students may choose problems from topic areas not included on the list below with teacher approval.

* Taxation
  + Should the government increase the tax on gasoline to make improvements to our roads and bridges?
* Government Spending
  + Should the government be spending more money on the military?
* Healthcare
  + Should the government replace the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) with a new program?
* Environmental Policy
  + Should laws be passed to reduce CO2 emissions from factories?
  + Should environmental regulations be reduced?
* Energy Policy
  + Should businesses be given a tax break for investing in green energy?
* Regulation of Businesses
  + Should there be stricter (or looser) child labor laws?
* Copyright Law
  + Should there be stricter enforcement of laws prohibiting software piracy?
* International Trade
  + Should we replace the North American Free Trade Agreement with the Us, Canada, Mexico Agreement
  + Should current tariffs imposed on imports be extended?
* Law, Order, and Public Safety
  + Does more of an effort need to be made to improve community and police relations?
* Immigration Policy
  + Should Congress reinstate DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)?
  + Will building a wall on the border between Mexico and the US have a significant impact illegal immigration?
* Rights of the accused and incarcerated
  + Should the government end the use of the death penalty?
* The Second Amendment
  + Should the sale and possession of assault weapons be banned?
* Technology
  + Should the government finance increased investment in technological advancement (artificial intelligence, etc.)
* Foreign Relations
  + Should the government continue military action in Iraq? (Syria? Afghanistan?)

**Economic and Political Concepts:** Students must integrate at least one economic and at least one political concept into their analysis of the issue and proposed solution. Below is a listing of concepts from the course to consider in your work.

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| **Economic Concepts** | **Political Concepts** |
| Scarcity  Tradeoffs  Marginal Analysis  Profit Motive  Supply and Demand  Public Goods  Competition  Interdependence  Monetary and Fiscal Policy  Government Intervention  Factors of Production  Inflation  Unemployment  Deficit spending  Private property  Economic Freedom  Capitalism | Representative Government  Influences on Government  Federalism  Separation of Powers  Constitutional Government  Limited Government  Interest Groups  Political Parties  Legislative process  Federal Bureaucracy  Campaign Financing  Political Participation  Political Freedom  Equality  Rights  Democracy  Common Good |

**Core 1 Schedule**

Wednesday 4/17

* Introduce Core and begin choosing topic

Monday 4/22

* Topic chosen and question determined by the end of the block (check point)

Tuesday 4/23

* Begin research on your topic/question and complete “Background” and “Recent

Developments" in the graphic organizer (checkpoint)

Wednesday 4/24 and Thursday 4/25

* Continue research and complete “Arguments For” and “Arguments Against” in the

graphic organizer (checkpoint)

Friday 4/26

* Read sample papers and discuss organization of the essay and rubric used for

grading.

Monday 4/29 through Thursday 5/02

* Work on rough draft in class
* **Rough draft due by the end of the block on Thursday 5/02**

Friday 5/03

* Peer editing of rough drafts
* If you are absent, you will e-mail the rough draft to me as an attached word in order to receive credit and have your draft edited

**Thursday 5/09 - FINAL DRAFT DUE**