



H.S. Government Curriculum

Reading and Writing Standards

Marking Period	Reading Standards	Writing Standards
1	Examining the Preamble of the Constitution	Fundamental Rights in a Democracy
2	Analysis of the Articles of Confederation	Comparing the Ideas of John Locke and Thomas Hobbes
3	Lincoln / Douglas Debate	Analyzing Party Platforms
4	Early Supreme Court Cases	Final Paper - The Importance of Government and the Responsibility of Each Generation to Protect Democracy

Scoring Guide for Written Work

Criteria	Limited	Developing	Proficient	Exemplary
Demonstrate Understanding of the Content	Demonstrates a limited understanding of the topic, providing incomplete or inaccurate information with significant gaps.	Demonstrates a partial understanding of the topic, providing some accurate and concise information but may lack depth or completeness.	Shows a solid understanding of the topic, providing accurate and concise information, addressing all key aspects of the prompt.	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic, providing comprehensive, accurate, and concise information. Complete: Addresses all aspects of the assigned topic or prompt Accurate: Provides accurate and relevant information supported by evidence or examples Concise: Presents ideas and information in a clear and concise manner without unnecessary repetition or digressions



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<p>Structure and Formatting</p>	<p>Lacks an engaging hook, inconsistent or insufficient use of citations, minimal use of CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and unclear or weak topic sentences.</p>	<p>Attempts to engage the reader with a hook, includes citations, attempts to use CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and provides topic sentences, but with some inconsistencies or lack of clarity.</p>	<p>Begins with an engaging hook, includes proper citations, effectively utilizes CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and presents clear topic sentences.</p>	<p>Engages the reader with a captivating hook, includes proper citations, effectively utilizes CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and presents clear and well-developed topic sentences.</p> <p>Hook: Engages the reader with a compelling opening that grabs attention</p> <p>Citation: Includes appropriate citations and references to give credit to sources used</p> <p>CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning): Constructs well-developed claims supported by relevant evidence and logical reasoning</p> <p>Topic Sentences: Clearly and effectively introduces the main ideas of paragraphs</p>
<p>Critical Thinking / Original Point of View</p>	<p>Shows limited evidence of critical thinking skills, with arguments or perspectives lacking coherence or supporting evidence.</p>	<p>Shows some evidence of critical thinking skills, but arguments or perspectives may be limited in depth or clarity.</p>	<p>Displays sound critical thinking skills, offering well-reasoned arguments and perspectives supported by relevant evidence.</p>	<p>Exhibits exceptional critical thinking skills, offering unique and insightful perspectives supported by strong reasoning and evidence.</p> <p>Demonstrates critical thinking skills by analyzing and evaluating information or arguments</p> <p>Presents a unique and original perspective or interpretation of the topic</p> <p>Supports arguments or ideas with thoughtful reasoning and evidence</p>



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Research / Reference	Relies on minimal sources, lacks integration of research findings, and shows inconsistent or inadequate citation and referencing.	Incorporates some sources, but may not fully integrate research findings or include proper citation and referencing consistently.	Incorporates appropriate sources, integrates research findings to support the content, and follows proper citation and referencing conventions with minor errors.	<p>Research / Reference: Utilizes a wide range of relevant and credible sources, effectively integrating research findings into the writing, and consistently follows proper citation and referencing conventions.</p> <p>Utilizes relevant and credible sources to support arguments or claims</p> <p>Effectively incorporates research findings to strengthen the overall content and understanding of the topic</p> <p>Demonstrates the ability to properly cite and reference sources in the appropriate format (MLA)</p>
Academic Writing	Contains frequent and significant errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure that impede readability.	Contains noticeable errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or sentence structure that occasionally hinder readability.	Demonstrates proficient spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure with occasional minor errors that do not hinder readability.	<p>Demonstrates exemplary spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure with no or minimal errors.</p> <p>Spelling: Exhibits correct spelling throughout the writing</p> <p>Grammar: Demonstrates mastery of grammar rules, including proper subject-verb agreement, verb tense consistency, and pronoun usage</p> <p>Punctuation: Applies appropriate punctuation marks, such as commas, periods, and quotation marks, correctly</p> <p>Sentence Structure: Constructs clear and varied sentence structures, including complex and compound sentences</p>



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Subject Specific Requirement	Demonstrates minimal understanding or application of subject-specific requirements, with little or no effectiveness in enhancing the writing.	Attempts to incorporate subject-specific requirements, but the execution may lack clarity or effectiveness.	Incorporates subject-specific requirements effectively, demonstrating a good understanding and application of the assigned requirement.	Skillfully incorporates subject-specific requirements, showcasing creativity, foreshadowing, or point of view to enhance the overall quality of the writing. Incorporates subject-specific requirements (e.g., creativity, foreshadowing, point of view) as specified in the assignment Applies the specific requirement effectively to enhance the overall quality and depth of the writing
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Content Topics and Pacing

Topic	Duration	Guiding Questions	Reading/Writing Assignments
Introduction to Government	3 Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand what a State is, and what characteristics must be present. • Understand the purpose of Government. • Understand the purpose of the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution. • Understand the various forms of Government, and the various types of Governments that exist in the world today. • Understand the characteristics of democracy and why they are important. • Understand what elements and conditions help to allow a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining the Preamble of the Constitution • Fundamental Rights in a Democracy



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		democracy to flourish.	
Founding and Development of Government	6 Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand and compare the various governments that existed in Ancient Greece.• Understand how the Magna Carta and the English Petition of Right lead to the development of the English Bill of Rights• Understand how Enlightenment philosophers influenced the U.S. founders.• Compare the ideas of Locke and Hobbes.• Understand the purpose and reasoning of the Mayflower Compact, and its significance• Understand the revolutionary ideas of Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Pain, and John Locke• Understand the influence George Mason and Thomas Jefferson had on the Declaration of Independence• Understand the reasoning and purpose of the Declaration of Independence.• Compare and Contrast the Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of the Rights of Man.• Understand the achievements and failures of the Articles of Confederation.• Understand who the main participants of the Constitutional	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comparing Greek Forms of Government• Comparing the Ideas of John Locke and Thomas Hobbes• Analysis of the Articles of Confederation• Federalist 10



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		<p>Convention were and their roles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and Contrast the Plans of the Constitutional Convention, and understand the compromises that were made. • Understand how power is divided in the U.S. government. 	
Political Parties	5 Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand where the two party systems come from and the beliefs and platforms of various political parties. • Analyze Political Parties • Understand the political spectrum • Understand the use of propaganda by political parties • Understand the voting process • Understand the importance of campaign finance and where the money comes from • Understand the role of the electoral college in Presidential elections • Understand the role of gerrymandering and redistricting and how it impacts elections • Understand how media and fake news impact the general public and elections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzing Party Platforms • Lincoln / Douglas Debate
Structure and Function of Government	7 Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand basic terminology of the Judicial System • Understand how a case goes to the Supreme Court • Understand the significance of Marbury v. Madison • Understand the differences and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Supreme Court Cases • Final Paper - The Importance of Government and the Responsibility of Each Generation to Protect Democracy



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		<p>purpose of judicial activism and judicial restraint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand the role the Supreme Court has played in Civil Rights• Understand the structures and functions of Congress.• Understand the various leadership roles of Congress.• Understand the expressed and implied powers of congress.• Understand the functions and jurisdictions of various Congressional Committees• Understand How a Bill Becomes a Law• Understand the qualifications to be President and the Powers the President possess• Understand the roles of President including: Chief of State, Chief Executive, Chief Diplomat, Commander-In-Chief, Chief Legislator, Party Chief, Chief Guardian of the Economy• Understand the purpose of Presidential Cabinets• Understand the functions of the Vice President	
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