

PS 200
Summer Session II 2019
Research Paper Assignment Sheet

Paper Assignment: Students are to pick one (1) of the topics listed below on which to write a 7-10 page research paper (double spaced, times new roman, size 12 font, 1" margins). Beyond the textbook, students are expected to reference at least five (5) outside works. Students are expected to define their chosen topic, situate the topic in the context of American politics, present arguments for and against the status quo of the given topic (benefits and problems), outline and analyze proposed changes to the topic, and, finally, take and defend a position on the topic, favoring either the status quo, a proposed innovation, or your own proposal. Papers will be evaluated using the attached rubric.

Presentation Assignment: Students are to prepare a 5-7 minute presentation summarizing their papers. Presentation should include all of the items required in the paper.

Important Deadlines:

- Thursday, June 27 – Pick paper topic (in class)
- Thursday, July 18 – Rough Draft due to Courseweb
- Thursday, July 25 – In-Class Peer Review Session
- Tuesday, July 30 – In-Class Presentation
- Thursday, August 1– Paper Due by 11:59 PM to Courseweb
 - Late papers lose a full letter grade per day

Topics:

A) *Separation of Powers*
B) *Political Parties*
C) *The Electoral College*

D) *Lifetime Judicial Tenure*
E) *Federalism*
F) *The Bi-Cameral Legislature*

	<i>Excellent</i> 5	<i>Above Average</i> 4	<i>Average</i> 3	<i>Needs Improvement</i> 2	<i>Unsatisfactory</i> 1
Defines Topic	Clearly defines the topic	Sufficiently defines the topic	Vaguely defines the topic	Does not provide a conceptual definition for topic, but implicitly defines it.	Does not provide a conceptual definition for topic.
Situates Topic	Clearly illustrates the application of the topic to American politics	Sufficiently illustrates the application of the topic to American politics	Somewhat illustrates the application of the topic to American politics	Weakly illustrates the application of the topic to American politics	Fails to illustrate the application of the topic to American politics
Arguments on Topic	Clearly identifies the arguments for and against the topic's status quo	Sufficiently identifies the arguments for and against the topic's status quo	Somewhat identifies the arguments for and against the topic's status quo	Weakly identifies the arguments for and against the topic's status quo	Does not identify the arguments for and against the topic's status quo
Proposed Remedies	Clearly identifies at least 2 proposed remedies	Sufficiently identifies at least 2 proposed remedies	Somewhat identifies at least 2 proposed remedies	Weakly identifies at least 2 proposed remedies OR only identifies one remedy	Does not identify any proposed remedies
Position on Topic	Clearly identifies and defends a position on the topic	Sufficiently identifies and defends a position on the topic	Somewhat identifies and defends a position on the topic	Weakly identifies and defends a position on the topic	Neither takes a position nor defends it
Spelling, Grammar, and Formatting	<3 errors	3-5 errors	5-10 errors	>10 errors	Illegible