

NAME _____

DATE _____

PERSUASIVE ESSAY REQUIREMENTS: THE UNITED STATES AND DEMOCRACY

You will write a 5 paragraph persuasive essay on the United States government. Your essay should respond to the following question: *“Is the United States a Democracy.”* Based on your readings and research to date, you will agree with or refute the statement and then persuade the reader with strong, fact-supported statements. Remember, you have just studied democracy and the US Constitution, both the ideals and the reality. You should definitely find a way to include those concepts in your essay. Later, you will study the issue of abortion and use the history of this issue to answer the same question.

In a persuasive essay, you must clearly present your case. As the reader, you do not necessarily have to agree, but you should be persuaded, at least, that the arguments support the claim and are strong, worthwhile arguments. You must use both emotional and supported arguments. For example, if you want to persuade a peer that a certain CD is worth listening to, saying "Such-n-such CD is excellent; you'll love it!" is an emotional argument based solely on the writer's opinion. If, however, the writer were to say, "If you like strong bass and lots of noise, you'll love this new CD by So-n-so!" the claim is based on the fact that there is strong bass and it is a loud CD – even with the volume way down. If you like that, you'll like the CD. Here you are using the emotion and the evidence to persuade the reader to come around to this way of thinking. The evidence supporting your reasons should come from your class notes, readings, exercises in class, the Internet, statistics, historical events and any other reading you have done inside or outside of class. It is important that you support your claims.

Read the instructions below and ask your teacher for help. Never be afraid to have a different opinion than someone else, as long as you have evidence to back it up. Your opinion is your thesis. Your thesis will be the main idea of your persuasive essay. Follow the steps below to complete your essay, DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF LESSON 23 (and your essay on abortion will be DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF LESSON 36).

Since this paper will only be your first draft you will not need to complete all of the steps that will be required for your formal persuasive essay due at the end of Unit 1. Your paper **MUST** be handed in with a **Persuasive Essay 1 Requirements** sheet, the **Persuasive Essay Rubric** with the grade you would like to earn circled, the **Essay Graphic Organizer** sheet, and a 1st draft.

Criteria for the **Persuasive Essay**

1. Thesis statement
2. 2 or more supporting statements
3. 1 acknowledgment of an opposing view and a counter argument with 2 pieces of supporting evidence
4. 2 pieces of evidence for each supporting statement from reading, class statistics, class notes, Internet, and/or historical event.
5. All quotes and references must be cited correctly
6. Essay must be at least 5 paragraphs long
7. Sentences must be grammatically correct
8. The thesis statement, supporting reasons, and evidence is convincing

STEP 1: Brainstorm five to six arguments for your viewpoint, as well as three to four points the opposition might take. Finally, write statements refuting the opposition.

STEP 2: Complete your Essay Graphic Organizer (or an outline of your choice).

STEP 3: Look at the **Persuasive Essay Rubric** and select the grade you would like to achieve. Circle the grade. Be sure to hand the Rubric in with your draft.

STEP 4: Using your outline, write your first draft. Spelling, punctuation and grammar do not count in this draft; your ideas do. Make sure you write in full sentences and full paragraphs. The following is the format for a Persuasive Essay in paragraph form:

Paragraph 1 = Your thesis statement, your 2 reasons (at least 2, but you might have more) that led you to believe your thesis statement is true, the opposing argument, and a closing sentence.

Paragraph 2 = Your first reason that backs up your thesis statement and at least 2 pieces of evidence that would lead you to believe the reason you are giving is true, and a closing sentence.

Paragraph 3 = Your second reason that backs up your thesis statement and at least 2 pieces of evidence that would lead you to believe the reason you are giving is true, and a closing sentence.

Paragraph 4 = A possible counter argument to your reasons and at least 2 pieces of evidence that refute that argument, and a closing sentence.



Paragraph 5 = Your closing statement which should be your initial thesis statement restated in a new and different way, questions you may still have and why you have them, and a closing sentence that wraps all of your ideas up and attempts to persuade the reader to believe your argument.

If you have more than 2 supporting reasons, the same format is true, you will just have more than 5 paragraphs. Have your teacher initial your first draft to show that it was finished on time.

GRADING PROCEDURE:	YOUR GRADE: (for Constitution essay)	YOUR GRADE: (for abortion essay)
Essay Graphic Organizer 4 points	_____	_____
First draft 6 points	_____	_____
Rubric Grade 6 points x 2	_____	_____
Total possible <u>22</u>	YOUR _____ TOTAL	_____

To figure out your grade, divide your total points by the total points possible and multiply by 100. This will give you a percentage. See table below for grade percentages.

A- to A+	90% - 100%
B- to B+	80% - 89%
C- to C+	70% - 79%
D- to D+	58% - 69%
F	57% and below

