

College Park High School – U.S. Government
Fall 2021 Research Project One

“Capitalism and Democracy”

Final Due Date: Friday, October 8, 2021 (late papers will be marked down one letter grade).

Question: Your Bianco / Canon textbook tends to downplay the effects of the economic system on politics, using the phrase “free market” instead of capitalism and suggesting that “[t]he government does not get directly involved in most economic transactions, but it can provide the foundation for a strong free market and economic growth.” It therefore has a somewhat benign description of the relationship between capitalism and democracy. Beginning with an analysis of the text (democratic / bureaucratic theory) position, review some of the *critical interpretations* on the interaction of capitalism and democracy and give your own evaluation as to whether democracy can indeed thrive within a corporate capitalist system.

Sample Outline

(But feel free to set this essay up as you wish)

I. Introduction / Thesis Statement – a brief statement outlining your position or something relevant about this issue (approximately 1 page).

II. Body – the bulk of the paper is here, in data taken from the readings and other evidence that you have found to support this position (approximately 4 pages).

- a. Text DPE – what does the textbook say about whether or not the US can be considered a democracy and how capitalism enhances or distorts this reality (check pages 15, and 521).
- b. Other Traditional DPE – supporting positions from the pluralist perspective.
- c. Critical DPE – what do some of the readings say on this issue. You should include but are not limited to the following scholarship: Parenti, Boyer, Alperovitz, Hightower, Street and Kelly.
- d. Outside DPE – are there other authors that you have examined that have a unique and/or important position on this question. They can come from any theoretical perspective.

III. Conclusion – from your reading of the various authors and theoretical positions, it is clear that democracy and capitalism CAN / CANNOT co-exist together in a workable and positive relationship for the people of the United States (approximately 1 page).

Extras:

1. Make sure to use the APA form of citation every time you use a statement or an idea from the readings that I have provided, or that you found in your own independent research. Using other’s work without providing proper citation is plagiarism and grounds for immediate failure on this essay.
2. Please type all work on a computer and print only one copy.
3. An “A” paper will be: a) fully documented and cited; b) a *minimum* of 9 pages (including the title page, abstract, and reference page, meaning 6 full pages of text analysis); c) research beyond the authors I provided; and d) turned in on time (October 8, 2021).