

**Research Project One: Spring 2020 – US Government / AP  
Corporate Power and Democracy**

**Final Due Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 (late papers will be marked down one letter grade).**

**Question: Your Bianco / Canon textbook tends to downplay the effects of the economic structure on politics, mentioning this system (capitalism) at only one point in the entire text (p. 521) and even then only using the concept of the “free market.” It therefore has a somewhat benign description of the relationship between corporate capitalism and democracy. Beginning with an analysis of the text’s more democratic position, review some of the *critical interpretations* on the interaction of growing corporate power within our political system 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.**

**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.**

- 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.**
- 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 (also info from Corporate Coup D’etat).**
- 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 corporate capitalism is having a negative / positive effect on democracy and therefore can / cannot co-exist together in a workable and positive relationship for the people of the United States.**

**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. **This project will form the 1st chapter of your final thesis paper.**
4. **An “A” paper will be: a) fully documented and cited; b) a *minimum* of 13 pages of text (including the title page, abstract, and reference page, meaning 10 *full* pages of text analysis); c) research *beyond* the authors I provided; and d) turned in *on time* (March 20, 2020).**