

College Park High School– U.S. Government
Spring 2022 Research Project Two

“US Foreign Policy and the Military-Industrial Complex”

Final Due Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 (late papers will be marked down one letter grade)

Question: In the documentary *Why We Fight*, by Eugene Jarecki, there is continual reference to an entity known as the “Military-Industrial Complex.” Included is a warning about some of its more deleterious effects on U.S. foreign policy given by none other than President Dwight D. Eisenhower as he left office in 1961. What is the military industrial complex and how relevant is it in the course of analyzing the war on terror, or the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan? Is there a relationship between the MIC and the five components of American foreign policy given in your notes? If not, in your view, why not? In the final analysis, why and what are we (they?) fighting for?

Sample Outline

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 you have found to support your position (approximately 4 pages).

- A. A description of the MIC – what are its individual components and the relationship (if any) between them.
- B. The five components of American foreign policy as outlined by your notes. Why is the MIC relationship downplayed in your text (described as a “supposed” relationship)?
- C. Realist / Neoconservative DPE
 - 1. Departments of Defense and State
 - 2. The Defense Industry
- D. Idealist / Critical DPE – Numerous books, articles, and websites exploring alternative explanations for U.S. involvement in overseas conflicts.
- E. Documentary (*Why We Fight*) DPE

III. Conclusion – after analyzing the evidence, it can be suggested that the military-industrial complex is / is not a primary reason for American wars...(approximately 1 page).

Extras:

1. All papers will be completed in APA style format. Make sure to include a 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. Do not turn in this paper separately. Include it as the second chapter of your final thesis project.

3. An “A” paper will be: a) fully documented and cited; b) a minimum of 6 pages of text analysis (DO NOT include separate title and abstract pages; c) research beyond authors provided; and d) turned in on time (May 23, 2022).