

Research Project One: Spring 2018 – U.S. Government
The Soil of Democracy
“Does America Have Widespread Education?”

Final Due Date: Friday, March 23, 2018 (late papers marked down one letter grade).

Question: Although it is implied in both the Magruder and Wilson textbooks that the United States has “widespread education” neither book gives any detail as to what type of education is given, or what the ultimate purpose of education is in a democracy. However, most political scientists would agree that theoretically at least, democracy “is more likely to succeed in countries with an educated public.” What does this mean to you and do you think the American public is sufficiently educated to exercise effective democracy?

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 you have found to support your position.

- a. Text DPE – what does the textbook say about the importance of an educated public? Does it mention whether or not the US meets or does not meet this objective?
- b. Marciano DPE – what does John Marciano say about the specific condition of *civic* education in the United States today? (analyze / evaluate)
- c. Gatto DPE – what does John Taylor Gatto have to say about the public school system in general? (analyze / evaluate)
- d. Film DPE – *Race to Nowhere* and *Ivory Tower*.
- e. Outside DPE – is there anything else you found in website searches or the library that you think is relevant and/or important to include in this debate?

III. Conclusion – do you believe that the US has provided the widespread education that is necessary for democracy to properly function? Why or why not?

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. Please type all work on a computer.

3. Please turn in two copies of this essay. One I will keep, the other will be corrected and returned to you.

4. An “A” paper will be: a) fully documented and cited; b) a *minimum* of 13 pages (including title, abstract, and reference pages; c) research *beyond* authors provided; and d) turned in *on time* (March 23, 2018).