

College Park High School – U.S. Government / Advanced Placement  
Final Thesis Project – Spring 2022

“The Four Theories of American Government”

Final Due Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 (this is a “drop dead” date. No papers accepted after this date).

**Question:** Explain the four competing theories of American government. By examining various historical and contemporary aspects of our government (i.e. the question of whether the 2020 presidential election signified a major change from the political and economic status quo and an examination of the ultimate reasons for the seemingly continuous wars fought by the U.S. military), create an overall thesis suggesting which of the four appears to be the more descriptive with regard to what your textbook describes as the “necessary and ordinary operations of the American government.”

**I. Title Page** (page number 1)

**II. Abstract Page** (page number 2)

**III. Main Body** (beginning with page number 3)

a. Introduction / Thesis Statement – a brief description of the four theories followed by a brief statement of your thesis outlining the details of how you will explore this overall question [what kind of government do we have?] (approximately 1 – 2 pages).

b. The 2020 presidential elections and the “status quo”: Did Biden’s victory in 2020 fundamentally change the direction that the U.S. is headed? Would Trump’s reelection have made America “great again”? (first research project – approximately 8 pages of text analysis).

c. U.S. foreign policy and the “military-industrial complex”: Why is the U.S. constantly at war? What are the real threats to America’s security, and will the military be the institution that can deal with these threats? (second research project – approximately 8 pages of text analysis).

d. Conclusion – a wrap-up of your thesis and the conclusions that you have come to based on the evidence you have uncovered [what kind of government do we want?] (approximately 1 – 2 pages).

**IV. Reference Pages** – please complete in APA style (continue page numbering through last reference page).

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 another author’s work without providing proper citation is plagiarism and grounds for immediate failure on this essay.

2. Please type all work on a computer. **You will upload this final paper to Turnitin.** Upload information will be available on the class website.

3. An “A” paper will be:

a) *fully documented and cited* using the APA format

b) a **minimum of 23 - 25 pages** in length

c) research *beyond* authors provided

d) turned in *on time* (May 23, 2022).