Summer Assignment for Government and AP Government & Politics class.

Mrs. Tara Scott, M.Ed.

Topics: How To Write in a Political Science Course & Introduction to Public Policy. **40 points**

Due Date: **Mon, August 24th by 11:59 p.m.** (late penalties will incur per the course syllabus). Submission instructions will be provided in class the week of August 17th as it will be submitted in Google Classroom (GC) and not through MSA. Once it is graded, you will view your grade in MSA. Whereas, comments can be accessed in GC once I release it back to you.

Formatting Instructions:

1. Access the ASH website, open the PDF related to the APGOPO summer assignment.
2. Login to your **ASH Google Drive**. Upload the summer assignment PDF to your **ASH Google Drive** and then right-click on it to select "Open with > Google Docs". **This process converts the PDF into an editable Google Doc.**
3. In your ASH Google Drive, name the document "APGOPO Summer Assignment".
4. During the week of August 17th, I will provide a join code to a specific Google Classroom that corresponds to your ASH course schedule. Next, you will access your "APGOPO Summer Assignment" and copy and paste it into your new assignment found in your Google Classroom. You will click 'turn in', by the due date and time, via Google Classroom.

Grading: Each question is worth 3 points and will be scored accordingly (*unless otherwise stated). Academic integrity and originality is expected- no sharing or copying responses. AI can be a helpful learning tool for brainstorming ideas, reviewing material, or explaining concepts. However, you may not use AI to write, solve, or generate responses that you submit for a grade. Submitting AI-generated work as your own is academic dishonesty. *If you use AI to support your learning (such as for brainstorming or clarification), you must cite it in APA format in a reference at the end of your assignment. Keep in mind that AI tools can produce inaccurate or biased information, so you are responsible for verifying what you use.
For proper citation format, here's a helpful link:
https://guides.lib.purdue.edu/c.php?g=1371380&p=10135074



Writing Scoring Guide- Keep it pithy (to the point).

0	1	2	3
Blank reply, did not accomplish any of the 2 tasks, or AI	Accomplished 1 of the 2 with accuracy.	Accomplished both tasks listed in the highest category yet one portion of the response does not	1. Accomplished all parts of the prompt with 1-3 lines of accurate evidence. 2. Used a concise writing style referencing the subject then verb. *Please be mindful that we are practicing the

generated responses.		align with the prompt or is not supported to the level the task verb requires.	skill of writing in a political science course + including 1-2 pieces of your strongest content knowledge. Therefore, if your answer is accurate but contains over 4 sentences, the most you will score is a 1.

Directions: Type your answers in blue text, Times New Roman, and 12 point font. Proofread your work to eliminate 3 errors or less. Up to 2 points will be deducted for more than three errors. This includes spelling, grammar, punctuation, and typos.

Task 1: Introduction to writing in a political science course and to the topic of public policy.

	Political science	**History**
Primary goal	Explain, predict, generalize about political phenomena.	Understand and interpret the past in its context.
Focus	Power, governance, political behavior, institutions (branches of gov.).	Past events, societies, cultures, change over time.
Methodology	Social scientific methods such as quantitative data focused on numerical values and measurable quantities, while qualitative data deals with descriptive information, such as words, images, or observations.	Analysis of primary and secondary sources, narrative construction.
Evidence Use	Test hypotheses, build generalizable knowledge.	Contextualize, interpret, and support historical claims.
Writing Style	Analytical, theoretical, precise, often uses jargon (specific key concepts). The tone is formal and impersonal.	Narrative, interpretive, descriptive, contextualized.

1. Analyze the chart above. Describe how political science uses a **different** writing style than history. * **Begin sentences with the subject** followed by the verb and adhere to 1-4 sentence length.

Watch the following video clip to learn the expectation of **how to write concisely**. Next, answer the question below. Video clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3tw-qqnwj4

3 Tips for Clear and Concise Writing: How To Improve Your Writing

2. List and describe the 3 tips or hacks to write concisely.

1.
2.
3.

3. Take concise and comprehensive notes. Directions: View the video in the link below and type notes into the spaces with numbers and parenthesis (input text). The notes should reflect pithy writing for a political science course (learned from task 1 above). *The writing scoring guide does not apply. 4 pts.

https://www.civiced.org/project-citizen/what-is-public-policy

What is Public Policy? - civiced.org

I. **List 3 roles of government** (input text for each number)
1.
2.
3.

II. **Paraphrase the definition of public policy:** (input text)

a. **How is public policy coercive?** (input text)

III. **3 observations of public policy**
1. Institutions (branches) involved:

2. Levels of government:

3. Exercises of power:

IV. (After viewing the clip) **Summarize the need for public policy**: (input text)

Task 2: **Public policy topics or agendas**. *Use criteria in the writing scoring guide above. Be concise, write in the active voice (subject first followed by verb).

4. Directions: View the video clip below. Identify and briefly describe the 5 stages of the public policy process (combine stages to meet the 4 sentence limit).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipm5Bk10Fio

5. In the policy formation phase, briefly explain possible limitations of the visual and audio representation provided (i.e. Google: How do local governments study traffic patterns?).

6. View the video clip below. Describe how policy mood can fluctuate over time and how it impacts politicians.
https://youtu.be/6Zzcd90Cqag
Ideology and policymaking | AP US Government and Politics | Khan Academy

For questions 7-12 read:

https://openstax.org/books/american-government-3e/pages/16-2-categorizing-public-policy

7. Using the content shared in the introductory paragraph, contrast the political ideology between liberals (the left) and conservatives (the right).

8. What is the difference between private and public goods and which type of good is generally associated with public policy and why?

Directions for questions 9-11: Highlight the correct response using yellow. 1 point each

9. How does a belief in free market economics typically influence public policy decisions?
A. It encourages the government to increase regulation of businesses to ensure fairness.
B. It supports government control over prices and wages to maintain economic stability.
C. It promotes minimal government intervention, allowing supply and demand to guide the economy.
D. It leads to more redistributive policies aimed at reducing income inequality.

10. What is the main difference between distributive and redistributive public policy?
A. Distributive policies take resources from one group and give them to another, while redistributive policies provide benefits to all.
B. Distributive policies provide benefits to specific groups without taking resources from others, while redistributive policies shift resources from one group to benefit another.
C. Redistributive policies are always related to education, while distributive policies are about healthcare.
D. Distributive policies are only used by local governments, while redistributive policies are federal.

11. Why might regulatory policy be more controversial than distributive policy?
A. it usually provides more benefits to wealthy individuals.
B. it often involves giving money to corporations.
C. it can restrict individual or business behavior to achieve a public goal.
D. it requires less government involvement in economic affairs.

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12. Use outside sources to provide a real-world example of a public policy and identify its origin.

For example: The source of an idea might come from the local government and the idea announced via local media such as- The city of New Orleans is hiring more police officers to patrol and maintain the safety of its citizens. *Tip for how to find a public policy example: search various interest groups, political party platforms, media outlets, or Congressional Archives i.e. https://www.congress.gov/#

*The writing scoring guide does not apply- 3 points total

Source of the public policy idea- 1 point (i.e. Did it come from an Interest group, political party, or level of government taking action (federal, state, or local). It could also be an individual or small group of people (like the family of an individual who is deceased).	**Public policy idea**- 2 points

13. Is the public policy that you listed in question 13 fair or effective? Include your reasoning (i.e. analyze **how it will impact different groups of people**: is it distributive, redistributive, or regulatory?)

Directions for questions 14 & 15: First read the essay, provided in the link below, then read and interpret the primary source example. Essay: Civil Discourse in Public Policy
https://civicsforlife.org/civil-discourse-in-public-policy/

14. Why is civil discourse considered essential in the context of public policy, according to the essay?

15**.** Integrate the primary source example below of the exchange between Senators Dirksen (R-IL) and Joseph McCarthy (R-WI) to answer the following prompt: How does incivility harm both individuals and the public-policy process?

Historic Example: Senator Joseph McCarthy and the Army–McCarthy Hearings (1954)

Context: During the early 1950s, Senator Joseph McCarthy led aggressive investigations into alleged communist infiltration of the U.S. government. The Army–McCarthy hearings in 1954 were televised and brought national attention to his tactics and tone, including his treatment of hundreds of witnesses and colleagues (while on the floor of the Senate wherein his comments were immune under the Speech and Debate Clause in The Constitution- Article 1, Section 6, Clause 1).

Incivility in Action: McCarthy's style was marked by interruption, personal attacks, and guilt by association. In a widely documented exchange during the hearings, McCarthy accused a young lawyer in the Army's legal team of Communist affiliations. In response, Army counsel **Joseph Welch** famously rebuked him with the words:

> **“Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?”**
> *— Joseph Welch, June 9, 1954, Army–McCarthy Hearings, U.S. Congressional Record*

McCarthy’s conduct throughout the hearings—routinely dismissive, accusatory, and sensationalist—undermined the seriousness of the process and turned many former supporters against him.

Impact: McCarthy’s incivility ultimately backfired. The televised hearings exposed his harsh tone and recklessness to the public, leading to a dramatic loss of credibility. In December 1954, the Senate formally censured McCarthy for "contemptuous behavior" and abuse of his position. His political influence collapsed shortly thereafter.

Below is a historic excerpt from the U.S. Congressional Record featuring Senator Everett Dirksen's rebuttal to Senator Joseph McCarthy during a series of heated exchanges in the 1954 Army-McCarthy hearings. This exchange was one of the moments when McCarthy's incivility in attacking his fellow senators and other government officials was publicly challenged.

Congressional Transcript (Excerpt)

Date: June 9, 1954
Context: Army-McCarthy Hearings
Speaker: Senator Everett Dirksen (R-Illinois) responds to Senator Joseph McCarthy's attacks on Army officials.

Senator Dirksen:

> "I do not intend to engage in this matter in an adversarial spirit, Senator McCarthy. The fact of the matter is that if you are going to continue in this manner, you may not be able to understand that this is no longer just a matter of politics. It is a matter of the rights of individuals to stand unmolested from political attacks. Your accusations, sir, have gone too far."

Senator McCarthy:

> "Mr. Dirksen, I will not be silenced. It is my right to expose communism wherever it may exist!"

Senator Dirksen:

> "You are not exposing communism, Senator, you are exposing yourself. And I would suggest that you, rather than accusing others, take a step back and reflect on the damage your reckless accusations are causing."

This exchange reflects the intense nature of the hearings and how Dirksen attempted to challenge McCarthy's behavior in the Senate.

References

McCarthyism / the "Red Scare." McCarthyism / The "Red Scare" | Eisenhower Presidential Library. (n.d.). https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/research/online-documents/mccarthyism-red-scare

U.S. Congress. (1954, June 9). **Transcript of the Army-McCarthy hearings**. *Congressional Record, 83rd Congress, 2nd Session*. U.S. Government Printing Office. https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/GPO-CRECB-1954-pt11



Nice Job! Please proofread your work. Once school starts, Mrs. Scott will show you how to 'turn in' using Google Classroom.