Unit 2 Project and Presentation: Foundations and Principles of American Government

Government

Mr. Anton

**Question Focus: The ideas put into the U.S. Constitution by the delegates at the Constitutional Convention were original.**

* Presentation Date and Location: November 30th, 2016 in the Performing Arts Center
* You will present and have a question and answer session pertaining to your research and process in creating this project to a 3-5 person panel that includes community leaders, government officials, teachers, college professors, and college students, as well as the public.
* Invite your parents, relatives, and friends to see what you have been working on.

**Expectations and Requirements:**

1. **Your group must create a project that displays researching proving or disproving the question focus without group members being present.** That being said, the project will be presented to the public, members of the community, and experts to be determined. The type of project is up to the group (see list of examples).
2. Your group **must create a clear thesis and argument that proves or disproves the question focus**.
3. Your group research, and presentation of that research in the project, **should include a significant amount of primary sources and an analysis of those sources.**
4. Your group **research and presentation should clearly connect your resources to your thesis and argument and be organized in a thoughtful manner.**
5. Your group **must cite and give credit to ALL outside sources** located in your project.
   1. All citations must be listed with the source and included in bibliography.
   2. You may use MLA or Chicago formatting for citations and bibliography.
6. Your group is expected to use formal writing in the final project (Spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.).
7. Individually, you are a part of a group. You are expected to cooperate and collaborate with them in order to create the best project possible.
8. You are REQUIRED to **be a part of your group and take a role in the presentation of your project.** **Your group will be evaluated on preparation and knowledge of the topic, ability to communicate clearly, and explain the process of developing the project.** If you have an unexcused absence on that day, you will lose the 30% of the total project grade. The presentation date will be released very early. MAKE SURE NOT TO MAKE ANY APPOINTMENTS ON THAT DAY.
9. Dress appropriately for the presentation day—Business Casual (Google it). You will be making an impression on community members, college professors, experts in the field, and government officials.

Grading:

1. Evaluation of your final project presentation by members of the community, experts in the field, and by Mr. Anton (50%)—See requirements 1-6 above and grading rubric.
2. Individual contribution and use of class time as observed by teacher (20%)
3. Individual contribution and use of class time from feedback of group members (20%)
4. Evaluations of the group project by classmates—Practice Presentation (10%)

**Objectives and Course Level Expectations:**

Apply the following principles of republic to historical and contemporary issues:

1. checks and balances
2. **separation of powers**
3. **federalism**
4. representation
5. **popular sovereignty**
6. due process of law
7. judicial review

Describe the historical foundations of the United States governmental system as reflected in the following documents

1. Magna Carta
2. Enlightenment writings of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Montesquieu, and the Social Contract Theory
3. Mayflower Compact
4. Declaration of Independence
5. Articles of Confederation

Explain the relevance and connection of constitutional principles in the following documents:

1. U.S. Constitution
2. Amendments to Constitution, emphasizing Bill of Rights

Explain the importance of the following principles of government:

1. **limited government**
2. **majority rule**and minority rights
3. checks and balances

Analyze the evolution of American **democracy**, its ideas, institutions and political processes, including:

1. Constitution and amendments

Assess the changing roles of the following:

1. checks and balances
2. **separation of powers**
3. **federalism**
4. define and explain judicial review

Evaluate the Enlightenment, including its principle ideas, its antecedents, its challenge to absolutist monarchies and others and its effects on world history