

United States Constitution

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

From *First Inaugural Address*, Abraham Lincoln (1861)

“...this country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing Government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it.”

From *the Gettysburg Address*, By Abraham Lincoln (1863)

“... a government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Question:

Based on the ideas stated in the excerpts above, write a well-developed essay that responds to the question: **Does today’s America have a government “of the people?”**

Be sure your response includes the following components:

1. Identifies and discusses your understanding of the phrase “of the people.”
2. A comparison to other governments that differ from that of the United States .
3. Addresses the potential for and the challenges of a citizen actually effecting change.
4. Evaluates the extent to which a citizen’s voice is heard in our modern government.
5. Makes a final evaluation, based on your opinion, but supported with evidence.
6. Draws upon your final evaluation to take a position (your opinion) on whether an ordinary citizen, in fact has any power to “create a more perfect Union” as proposed in the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States. Why or why not? Be sure to provide a coherent explanation that includes your final evaluation to support your position.

YOUR ESSAY SUBMISSION:

- MUST NOT have a cover page.
- MUST be typed and double-spaced.
- MUST have your name at the top of the first page.
- MUST NOT exceed two pages. (*If you have a works cited page it **will not** count as a part of your two pages.*)

ESSAY EVALUATION: The rubric that will be used to evaluate and score your essay will be based on the questitn prompt and its six outlined components. Consider the “Helpful Writing Tips” below to support your work.

HELPFUL WRITING TIPS - Keep the following information in mind as you write and proof your

essay. **COHERENT AND LOGICAL INTRODUCTION**

- Essay has a historical and practical background on the topic or issue addressed by the question.
- Essay has supporting ideas and facts. (No representation of personal or political opinions of the essay writer.)
- There is a thesis statement that speaks to the question asked.
- The thesis statement is clear and logically expressed.

ESSAY DETAILS AND SUPPORT

- The main points of the prompt are addressed in the essay.
 - The essay addresses what has been asked for in the essay prompt.
 - Arguments or information are presented for the points being addressed.
 - Supporting evidence is provided for any arguments or information presented.
 - The essay is detailed with information and evidence to support the thesis statement.
 - Examples used to highlight make a logical connection to what they illustrate.
- The essay uses evidence that offers historical, contemporary, and current examples/descriptions.
- Personal conclusions are supported with data and information to support the writer's perspective.
- ALL the elements or components of the essay prompt are addressed with information, examples, data, etc.

Caution:

- Avoid flowery writing and descriptions full of imagery.
- Avoid opinion unless to address the portion of the essay which asks that an opinion be provided.
- Focus on writing a well-detailed paper based on research and facts to support your views.
- You are writing an expository essay which presents a balanced analysis of a topic.

ORGANIZATION

- The essay is written with a clear flow that is easy to read and comprehend. Sentence flow, paragraph and thought transitions, and appropriate word choice are important.
- Information is organized and structured in a logical manner.
- There is a clearly defined introduction.
- There is a clearly defined conclusion.

ACCURACY OF INFORMATION

- Information is correct and researched.
- Information is not value laden.

A STRONG CONCLUSION

- The concluding thoughts make a clear connection to the question or thesis based on the support and evidence presented in the essay.

MECHANICS

- Spelling is correct.
- Punctuation is correct.
- Capitalization is appropriate.