

# AP GOVERNMENT ARGUMENT ESSAY RUBRIC

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

## THESIS / CLAIM

**Articulates a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and establishes a line of reasoning.**

*To earn this point, the thesis must make a claim that responds to the prompt, rather than merely restating or rephrasing the prompt. The thesis may be located anywhere in the response and this point can be earned even if the claim is not supported by the rest of the essay.*

## EVIDENCE & SUPPORT FOR ARGUMENT (Up to 3 Points)

**NOTE:** *These points are progressive, with each point building upon the previous point. If the essay lacks a thesis or claim, it is impossible for the student to earn the second or third evidence point.*

**1-2 Points: Provides ONE or TWO pieces of evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt** (one point per relevant piece of evidence).

*(DOES NOT have to support a claim or thesis)*

**/2**

IF THERE IS NO THESIS, NONE OF THE POINTS BELOW CAN BE EARNED.

*If both of the above points are earned, the student is eligible to earn additional points.*

**1 Point: At least ONE of the two pieces of SPECIFIC evidence supports the claim or thesis** (TWO pieces of evidence must be present to earn this point).

*(DOES NOT have to come from one of the Foundational Documents in the prompt)*

**1 Point: TWO pieces of SPECIFIC and RELEVANT evidence support the claim or thesis.**

*(At least ONE must come from one of the Foundational Documents in the prompt)*

## REASONING

**Explains how or why ONE or TWO pieces of evidence support the claim or thesis** (one point per explanation).

*Each piece of evidence earning this point must have first earned the point for supporting a claim or thesis.*

**/2**

## ~~OPPOSING OR ALTERNATE PERSPECTIVE~~

**This WILL NOT be on the 2020 exam.**

**X**

NOTES:

**TOTAL  
POINTS:**

**/7**

*This rubric is based on guidelines specific to the 2020 AP US Government and Politics exam.*

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