

BURKHARD

The “Trust But Verify” Essay

Background: President Ronald Reagan, in his discussions with the Soviet Union regarding nuclear disarmament, was famous for using the phrase “*Trust, but Verify.*” This phrase is actually a translation of the Russian proverb “*doveriai, no proveriai,*” and is meant to indicate that there are great difficulties that a nation has when dealing with a government that may not be upfront and honest about their policies, such as the Soviet Union was in the 1980s.

Currently, many in America are wondering if the same idea should be applied to our own government: “*Trust, but Verify.*” Numerous government programs and policies have come to light over the last 10-20 years that indicate that the United States government may not always have had the best interest and safety of the American citizen in mind when executing governmental actions, especially during the time of the Cold War with Russia in the 1950s-1980s.

The Writing: In a well-thought-out essay of AT LEAST ONE-TWO PAGES, EXPLORE this concept with regards to the United States government in the year 2021. You may argue FOR the statement or AGAINST it. You will need to present a thesis statement, then support your statement with AT LEAST three documented and verifiable supporting arguments (*in other words, no “Illuminati World Domination” arguments*) from your research, our class presentations and our notes. You will also have a concluding paragraph that summarizes your assertions. You may use any notes that you have taken in class to help you on this essay.

Submission and Grading: You will have 24 hours to complete this work from the time that the class begins work on the writing. The writing will be worth 100 points, graded on your use of supporting arguments to your thesis. Spelling and grammar will be taken into account in the grading, as well. Please share your Googledocs essay with Mr. Burkhard at pburkhard@weldre9.k12.co.us when you are done. To be considered “on time”, your work must be date stamped within the 24 hour period designated. Late work will be docked 10 percentage points 24 hour period past the due date.