

Opposing Views Replacement Credit Option AP Government

A democracy depends not on shoving your point of view down the throat of your opponents but rather on civil discourse, where people present and listen thoughtfully to a variety of perspectives.

The following replacement credit option is worth **up to ten points** for a thorough and thoughtful paper.

You may do up to **three** of these in a semester.

Due Date Semester 1— the last Sunday *before* the end of Semester 1 - January 18, 2026.

Due Date Semester 2—the last school day before Memorial Day weekend

- Please proofread carefully to meet AP-level standards of grammar, usage, and mechanics.
- This must be typed, double-spaced, font sized 12, MLA format heading, etc.
- It must be a minimum of 500 words. More is fine.
- Please email - **DO NOT SHARE**. Shared documents get lost in my email.
 - **Please make the subject of your email - First Name Last Name - Opposing Views - RC #/3**

1. Take one of these political ideology tests. (You only need to do this once, not each time you complete this assignment.)

- <http://www.people-press.org/quiz/political-typology/>
- http://www.youthleadership.net/econgress/political_ideology_survey

Are you, for the most part, liberal or conservative? **Please note that at the beginning of your response.**

2. Choose a columnist from the list below who is from the other side of the political spectrum. If you are a conservative, for example, choose one of the liberals. Locate one of this writer's columns **from the past month**.

Note: **DO NOT PAY FOR ANYTHING**; to get past paywalls, hit **Ctrl+P** while the article is loading. This should provide a print preview of the article before the paywall appears.

- Or use <https://removepaywalls.com/> on a personal device (no student Chromebook)
- You can also send the article to me, and I will try to get it for you.

Please provide the author, title, and source of the column you have selected.

Note: If I have already assigned a column for class reading, you may not also use that column for this extra-credit assignment.

I have tried to select people who are consistently fair-minded **AND** who consistently represent a liberal or a conservative point of view. Please let me know if any of them are no longer writing for the listed periodicals.

Liberal	Conservative
Karen Tumulty, <i>Washington Post</i>	Kevin Williamson, <i>The Dispatch</i>
David Ignatius, <i>Washington Post</i>	Nick Catoggio, <i>The Dispatch</i>
Tom Friedman, <i>New York Times</i>	Kim Wehle, <i>The Bulwark</i>
Nicholas Kristof, <i>New York Times</i>	Jonah Goldberg, <i>National Review</i>
Ruth Marcus, <i>Washington Post</i>	Max Boot, <i>Washington Post</i>
Fareed Zakaria, <i>Washington Post</i>	David French - <i>New York Times</i>
Doyle McManus, <i>Los Angeles Times</i>	David Brooks, <i>New York Times</i>
Steve Coll, <i>The New Yorker</i>	George Will, <i>Washington Post</i>
Froma Harrop https://www.creators.com/read/froma-harrop	Mona Charen, <i>National Review</i> , https://www.creators.com/read/mona-charen

3. What is the column about? **BEFORE YOU READ THE COLUMN**, write down three things that you think about this topic.

Note: I am not asking you to guess what the columnist will say. Rather, if the column is about President Trump's foreign policy, tell me three things you think about President Trump's foreign policy.

4. Read the column. Write a half-page summary of the writer's position.

5. Choose one point from the column that goes against what you would normally think about this topic. Explain why this point could be true. In what sense might it be valid? How did this column help you see the topic from a position different from your normal viewpoint?

6. Finish the rest of the page with your thoughtful response to this column. Explain your view on this issue more fully. Why do you agree or disagree with the position presented in this column? Has this column changed your position?

NOTE: After completing your paper, you are expected to proofread it. Given its nature as replacement credit, I will grade it at a higher level than the in-class timed essays.

7. Directly email me a copy of your Opposing Views with the subject line, **First Name Last Name - Opposing Views RC #**