

Unit 4 Writing

1. Develop an argument that answers the question what is the purpose of Congress and do they fulfill that purpose?
 - a. Articulate a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and establishes an line of reasoning.
 - b. Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of accurate and relevant information:
 - i. At least ONE piece of evidence must be from one of the following foundational documents:
 1. Article 1 of the Constitution
 2. Voting records of your members of Congress
 - ii. Use a second piece of evidence from another foundational document or from your study of Congress
 - c. Use reasoning to explain why each piece of evidence supports your claim/theis
 - d. Respond to an opposing or alternative perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal
2. Develop an argument that answers the question; Congress is regularly polled at being very unpopular, and yet incumbents (people already in office) get re-elected 80-90% of the time. What factors lead to this?
 - a. Articulate a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and establishes an line of reasoning
 - b. Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of accurate and relevant information:
 - i. At least ONE piece of evidence must be from one of the following foundational documents:
 1. Article 1 of the Constitution
 2. The history of gerrymandering
 - ii. Use a second piece of evidence from another foundational document or from your study of Congress
 - c. Use reasoning to explain why each piece of evidence supports your claim/theis
 - d. Respond to an opposing or alternative perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal
3. Develop an argument that answers the question how and why has presidential power expanded since the ratification of the Constitution, and if that power has grown too much.
 - a. Articulate a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and establishes an line of reasoning
 - b. Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of accurate and relevant information:
 - i. At least ONE piece of evidence must be from one of the following foundational documents:
 1. Article 2 of the Constitution
 2. History of executive orders
 3. History of vetoes

Unit 4 Writing

- ii. Use a second piece of evidence from another foundational document or from your study of Congress
 - c. Use reasoning to explain why each piece of evidence supports your claim/thesis
 - d. Respond to an opposing or alternative perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal
4. Develop an argument that answers the question how and why the Federal Bureaucracy has grown from 4 members of the President's Cabinet to almost 3 million people in dozens of agencies and departments. Is this growth of the Federal Government a good thing?
 - a. Articulate a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and establishes an line of reasoning
 - b. Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of accurate and relevant information:
 - i. At least ONE piece of evidence must be from one of the following foundational documents:
 1. Article 2 of the Constitution
 2. Organizational chart of the Federal Government
 3. Official website of a Federal department or agency
 - ii. Use a second piece of evidence from another foundational document or from your study of Congress
 - c. Use reasoning to explain why each piece of evidence supports your claim/thesis
 - d. Respond to an opposing or alternative perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal
5. Develop an argument that answers the question why the Supreme Court and judicial branch was designed as an independent, non-elected part of the government.
 - a. Articulate a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and establishes an line of reasoning
 - b. Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of accurate and relevant information:
 - i. At least ONE piece of evidence must be from one of the following foundational documents:
 1. Article 3 of the Constitution
 2. Marbury v Madison
 3. Other Supreme Court case from history
 - ii. Use a second piece of evidence from another foundational document or from your study of Congress
 - c. Use reasoning to explain why each piece of evidence supports your claim/thesis
 - d. Respond to an opposing or alternative perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal
6. Develop an argument that answers the question of how the Supreme Court interprets and changes law for the average American.
 - a. Articulate a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and establishes an line of reasoning

Unit 4 Writing

- b. Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of accurate and relevant information:
 - i. At least ONE piece of evidence must be from one of the following foundational documents:
 - 1. Article 3 of the Constitution
 - 2. Supreme Court cases from the last few years
 - ii. Use a second piece of evidence from another foundational document or from your study of Congress
- c. Use reasoning to explain why each piece of evidence supports your claim/theis
- d. Respond to an opposing or alternative perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal