This assignment is part of the requirements for AP American Government & Politics. It will be titled, "Civic Engagement Project."

Students will choose a domestic issue of interest and pursue a strategic plan for the enactment and implementation of a solution to this domestic policy problem of interest.

- You will format the written portion of this summer assignment as I have laid out (e.g., Part I: 1., 2.; Part II: 3., 4., 5., 6., 7.; Part III: 8., 9., 10., 11., 12., 13.; Part IV: so-on and so-forth). For 1-22, single-space responses, but double-space between prompts.

You will report (Typed, 12-font, Times New Roman, Works Cited Page) the following for this "Civic Engagement Project" summer assignment:

PART I
1. Identify and describe a domestic policy area and policy problem you would like to explore and try to solve.
2. Explain the significance of the policy problem by describing how key stakeholders in this issue will be affected if the problem is not solved.

*** Some possible areas of interest would include fiscal policy, monetary policy, healthcare policy, education policy, environmental policy/energy policy, immigration policy, or civil rights policy.

PART II
3. Identify the government powers relative to your policy problem and explain whether these powers are best classified as enumerated/expressed (powers that are written in the Constitution), implied (powers that are necessary and proper to carry out an enumerated power), reserved (state powers – Amendment X), or concurrent (powers shared by both national and state).
4. Explain the relationship between your policy problem and the Constitutional provisions that frame federalism; 10th Amendment, 14th Amendment, the Supremacy Clause (Article VI), the Necessary and Proper Clause (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18), and the enumerated (written) powers in Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1-17.
5. Explain the relationship between federalism (division of power between national government and member state governments) and the policy problem and whether, overall, the policy problem is more influenced by the national government or state governments.
6. Explain at least one advantage and one disadvantage that federalism and checks and balances in the national government poses for a possible interest group (lobbying efforts) seeking to influence government policy on this policy problem.
7. Find ONE text-based qualitative source related to your policy problem from an online source that focuses on politics and policy, such as the National Constitution Center’s Constitution Daily Blog, FiveThirtyEight, or Politico. Describe the author’s claim(s),
perspective, assumptions, and reasoning, explain how the source relates to your policy problem, and respond to the author’s claim.

PART III

8. Identify and describe at least ONE power that each federal government institution (Congress, the president, the judiciary, and the federal bureaucracy) can use to influence your policy problem. Explain how each of these powers influence the policy problem.

9. Identify at least ONE specific landmark action that each federal government institution has taken in your policy area and explain how each action influences your policy problem.

10. Explain at least ONE way in which the influence of each federal government institution over your policy problem can be limited by one of the other federal government institutions.

11. Explain how at least ONE of the following concepts might limit or enhance your ability to influence the policy problem – divided government (e.g. Legislative Branch/Congress - majority Democrat, and Executive Branch – Republican control), gerrymandering (state legislature drawing House districts to their party advantage), and/or iron triangle (policy decisions made by relationship between an interest group (lobbying), a congressional committee, and a bureaucratic agency).

12. Make an argument, supported by evidence, concerning which institution of the federal government you should target in seeking to influence policy related to your policy problem.

13. Find a visual source related to your policy problem. This visual source can take the form of a political cartoon from a news website, or an infographic from a news website. Describe the topic and perspective conveyed in the visual; explain how the elements of the visual are related to your policy problem and how the visual impacts your view of the problem.

PART IV

14. Explain the relationship between your policy problem and civil liberties, and as appropriate, identify the specific provisions in the Bill of Rights that relate to your policy problem and explain how these provisions are related to your policy problem.

15. Explain the relationship between your policy problem and civil rights.

16. Explain how at least ONE Supreme Court case related to civil liberties or civil rights limits your ability to influence policy.

17. Explain how at least ONE Supreme Court case related to civil liberties or civil rights protects or enhances your ability to influence policy.

18. Describe at least ONE lesson, strategy, or idea you can borrow from “Letter from Birmingham Jail (must read),” National Organization for Women, or the pro-life movement in terms of how to successfully influence government policy.
PART V

19. Summarize TWO public opinion polls from a polling service or website (Gallup, Pew Research Center, a news website, or FiveThirtyEight) that present public opinion data related to your policy problem. Describe the data presented in each poll, describe patterns and trends in the data, draw at least one conclusion based on the data, explain how the data relates to your policy problem, and. Account for any differences in the data presented by both polls. Evaluate the reliability and veracity of the polls by analyzing their sampling techniques and question types.

20. Describe the stance the Republican Party, Democrat Party, and ONE third party as it relates to your policy problem based on the information presented in the most recent national party platforms. Explain the relationship between the Republican Party’s stance and conservatism, the Democrat Party’s stance and liberalism, and the relationship between the stance of the third party and the two major parties.

21. Explain how the policy problem is related to ONE of the core values underlying American political culture (e.g., individualism, equality of opportunity, free enterprise, rule of law, limited government) and how the major parties differ in their attitudes towards this core value.

22. Explain how the information researched in 19, 20, and 21 might influence the strategic approach of you attempting to influence policy around your policy problem.

PART VI

23. Visual Presentation: You will synthesize the research on your domestic policy problem. You will create a visual presentation (PowerPoint, Prezi, Tri-fold poster board, Video) that presents a strategic plan that you will take to push government to solve the policy problem.

Your visual presentation should include:
- A description of the policy area and problem you are seeking to influence.
- A description of the policy solution that you would like to see enacted and an explanation of how this solution solves the policy problem.
- Identify the specific institutions of government (e.g., Congress, bureaucratic agency/commission) you will lobby and an explanation of why these institutions are the most important to lobby on this issue.
- A description of the specific strategies you are going to use to influence the policy problem and an explanation of why these strategies are the most effective in this context.
- A description of at least TWO challenges you are likely to encounter (e.g., shifts in public opinion, party polarization on the issue, constitutional challenge, challenge related to media coverage and exposure) and an explanation of how you plan to overcome these challenges.

You will present your plan to your classmates for approximately 5-10 minutes. Your classmates will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding the accuracy, effectiveness, and viability of your strategic plan.

Thank you for putting the time and effort into this Civic Engagement Project.

Have a great summer!