

Free Responses 1999-2016

2016	Congress and limitations on Bureaucracy	Linkage institutions and electoral process	Political efficacy / 17 th Amendment / Electoral College	Demographic trends (chart)
2015	Power of the president, limits, influence of divided government	Sovereignty over Articles of Confederation and Constitution, expansion of power for national gov't, devolution of power to states	Electoral College, campaign methods to influence key states	Civil Rights vs. Civil Liberties, 14 th Amendment (Equal Protection and Due Process)
2014	Federalist/Anti-Federalist positions on the power of government	Influences on voter turnout	Role/limitations on Congress and the president in foreign policy making	Political party polarization in Congress
2013	Theories of Democracy and Representation	Influence of Parties on Elections	Presidential Judicial Nominations	Factors Affecting Policy-Making
2012	Congressional duties, oversight and casework	Barriers to minority voting and minority representation in Congress	Political factors affecting judicial appointments and confirmation; legislative and executive checks on judicial decisions	Interest group influence on elections and government decision-making; limitations on interest group influence
2011	Judicial review; judicial decision-making	Public opinion polls and their influences on Congress	Political parties; nomination processes and conventions	Effects on Presidential and Congressional decision-making
2010	Interest groups protections, activities and regulation by government	Bureaucracy: merit system, independence, and checks and balances	Political Party composition and changes	Limitations on the powers of national and state governments
2009	Majority rule in a democracy; limitations on government	Voter turnout and linkage institutions	Majoritarianism in law-making; differences in House and Senate in law-making process	Media influences on agenda-setting
2008	Congressional reapportionment, redistricting, gerrymandering and Supreme Court limits	Presidential influences (formal powers) over Congress in domestic policy	Executive and legislative branch influences on fiscal and monetary policy	15 th Amendment and voter turnout, alternate political participation and civil rights policies
2006	Interest Groups & Political Parties: Goals & Methods	Social Security reform	Discretionary Authority of Federal Agencies	Why Bicameral Legislature, Unique Powers
2005	Supreme Court and public opinion	Increased power of federal government relative to states	Selective Incorporation of Bill of Rights using 14 th Amendment	Campaign Finance Reform
2004	President, Congress & Foreign Policy--formal and informal powers	Interest Group techniques	Minor Parties—rules affecting, contributions	How divided government & increased cost of campaigns have caused decline in trust in government
2003	Presidential approval fluctuation	Participation in political process other than voting	Trends in Federal and State/local government employment; federal mandates, block grants	Party leadership and committees; specialization, reciprocity, party representation on committees
2002	Divided Government: Problems for the President	Distribution of Government benefits to children and the elderly	Obstacles and opportunities for racial minority groups	Declining voter turnout 1950-2000
2001	Formal and informal methods of amending Constitution	Incumbent reelection in House, Senate	Supreme Court cases applying 14 th Amendment (Incorporation)	Divided Government, Weak party discipline/Interest groups, PACs
2000	How Constitution dealt with problems of decentralization under Articles of Confederation	Supreme Court nomination process--characteristics of nominees	Regional voting patterns, 1992/1996 presidential elections	Obstacles to campaign finance reform: Buckley v. Valeo, soft money, incumbency.
1999	Media coverage of presidential campaigns	Resources & characteristics of interest groups influencing public policy	Congressional oversight of federal bureaucracy	Entitlement spending and interest on the debt & effect on federal budget

