RESEARCH PAPERS/American Political Institutions: A Black Perspective

Please note that your paper assignment for the semester is a "research" paper. Therefore, in writing your paper I expect you to utilize your research skills and the library's many resources in obtaining information for your paper. If you have any questions related to accessing sources for your paper you should consult with the reference librarian or the person in charge of government documents.

FRAMEWORK OF RESEARCH PAPER

The length of your paper should range from 5-7 pages. All papers must adhere to and include the following:

1) All papers must be typed in Times New Roman 12-point font, and double-spaced with one (1) inch margins.
2) A thesis statement, which sets forth the research question;
3) A section that provides relevant data to support your thesis statement and a discussion of any alternative views;
4) A conclusion that includes your particular ideas regarding your topic;
5) Footnotes/endnotes for all of the sources that you consult;
6) Bibliographic references for all footnotes/endnotes in your paper;
7) All bibliographic references must correspond to a footnote/endnote in your paper;
8) A bibliography. Your bibliography should include at least five sources in addition to any assigned class readings that you use;
9) Internet citations are limited to two of the five (minimum) sources;
10) All tables and charts must be reproduced and cited. Inserting copies of charts, tables, etc. is unacceptable;
11) Citing "class handouts" is unacceptable. Therefore, you are required to find the relevant source(s) yourself;
12) Your paper must conform to the rules of English grammar;
13) Pages in your paper must be numbered in chronological order; and
14) Large quotations are limited to three and must be indented and single-spaced.
Any paper that does not adhere to these guidelines will be penalized 10 points for each relevant item.

EXCESSIVE GRAMMATICAL OR SPELLING ERRORS WILL BE PENALIZED - TWO (2) POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR EACH GRAMMATICAL OR SPELLING ERROR AFTER THE FIRST THREE (3). Thus, it is essential that you edit your paper carefully!

Please note that PLAGERISM—failing to cite all information used in your paper or submitting a paper written by someone other than yourself-- will be subject to University mandated disciplinary action.

LATE PAPERS

Papers must be handed in at the beginning of class on the last day of instruction, Thursday, December 4, 2003. Any paper handed in afterwards will be considered late. A letter grade (ten points) will be subtracted for each day that a paper is late, including weekend days.

RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS

YOU MUST SUBMIT YOUR CHOICE OF THREE PAPER TOPICS (in ranking order) IN WRITING ON October 23, 2003. I will give you your approved paper topic on October 30, 2003. Only TWO PEOPLE AT MOST WILL BE ALLOWED TO WRITE ON THE SAME TOPIC, Therefore it would be advisable to choose an original topic.

It is important to check out the availability of sources on the topic that you choose because you will not be allowed to change your topic after November 6, 2003. I will choose a non-negotiable topic for all students who fail to turn in one.
SOME POSSIBLE PAPER TOPICS:

1) Explaining African American participation in the electoral process in California, including political parties, turn-out etc.
2) The Significance of African American Interest Groups? Are they relevant? For instance, the NAACP.
3) Inequality and African Americans in California.
5) Competing Ideas of American Democracy and their affects on Equality i.e. Elitist Theory vs. Pluralist Theory.

GUIDELINES FOR REFERENCES

Use the following format for references/citations in your paper:

1. When you quote or refer to portions of someone's work in the body of your paper, put the author and page number(s) in parentheses immediately following the passage. Be absolutely sure you give credit any time you use another's work. Use quotation marks or indent the passage if using direct quotations, and cite the work when referring to major ideas or passages in a particular work. Indented passages must be single-spaced.

Examples:

For Books:

The only way to keep government from becoming tyrannical is to limit and divide power (Stanford, 12-14).

Stanford (4) notes "federalism can best be understood by examining Supreme Court decisions since McCulloch v Maryland."

In the case of a newspaper article:

There is a clear correlation between poverty and crime (Stanford D1).
In the case of a journal article:

"One thing for certain, the time is now (Stanford 6:456)."

For Internet Citations:

The African American population has increased dramatically over the past 10 years, from 12% of the population to 58% (Williams 4).

Citing lectures and television programs is prohibited -- you must have a source for everything you cite. If you have questions regarding where I received particular information that I have used in a lecture, see me.

Bibliography

At the end of your paper give me the entire citation in a list of all the sources you used on a separate page. Title it "Bibliography" and list the works in alphabetical order. Here are some examples using the correct form.

For Books:


For an Article in a Newspaper:


For Chapters in an Edited Book:


For Chapters or Articles in a Journal:

**For Articles in a Magazine:**


**For Unsigned Articles in Magazines:**


**For Internet Citations:**