

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) for Mr. Eisenberg's Participation in Government Classes.**

Q: What do I need in order to be considered "prepared" for class?

A: You need a notebook every day. I recommend loose-leaf. You will need pencil and pen. You can expect to need a pencil for every exam. On occasion, you will be asked to bring a textbook to class.

Q: I'm a senior. What's your attendance policy?

A: You must be here. Cuts will be reported. Enough said.

Q: OK, I'm in class. Now what do I have to do?

A: The title of the class is Participation in Government. Naturally, in order to get ready to participate in government, you must participate actively in this class. You will receive a participation grade equaling 25% of your grade each marking period. This can be an easy way to help your grade. Naturally, if you do not participate often, or if you disrupt the learning process in some way, it could serve to hurt your grade. Think about it this way, if you don't participate, you'll have to listen to me all day, every day.

Q: Do you give a lot of homework?

A: I do not believe in giving homework just to keep you busy. I only give homework that is part of the curriculum, and that adds to an understanding of our work in class. That having been said, some weeks will require work every night, while other weeks will involve fewer assignments.

Q: How often will we have tests?

A: Major exams will be  $\approx$  every 2 weeks. There may be quizzes in between, and the occasional surprise!

Q: What about extra help?

A: I offer extra help almost every day after school. Simply let me know that you plan to attend.

Q: How will my grade be determined?

A: It will consist of several parts. Test grades count as 60% of your grade, with participation equaling 25%, and homework comprising the remaining 15%.

Q: Why haven't you addressed conduct in class yet?

A: Because you are a senior, and we both know that you know how to behave in class. At this age, failure to behave properly is a choice. A foolish choice, which simply wastes everyone's time.

Q: What will we cover this year?

A: We will examine several things. Certainly, we must look at the structure and rules of U.S. Government. However, as you covered that last year, we will try to avoid overlap whenever possible. More attention will be paid to the ways in which government has an impact on your life, and the ways in which you can have an impact on government.

Q: Will there be a state exam for this course?

A: No. The school requires that I present a final examination, but New York State currently has neither a Regents Exam for Participation in Government, or Economics.

Q: How is my grade for the year determined?

A: Please note that this course is **entirely separate** from the Economics course taken in the other half of the year. The state does not permit us to average the two grades together. Instead, a half-credit is issued for each course, so you must pass **both** courses in order to graduate.

Q: Will we see any films?

A: Yes. As with any other class activity, we only do this if it is going to contribute to understanding the issues being addressed in class. Although I hope you will enjoy these films, it is not the only reason that they will be shown. I have some films in mind, but I will listen to suggestions.

Q: Do you have a web site?

A: Of course! You can find it at: <http://www.abcandj.com/socialstudies.html>

Q: What is the school's policy regarding iPods and cell phones?

A: Although you may have electronic devices with you, you are not permitted to interrupt class with them. There is no reason that these devices should **ever** go off in class. Should there be an urgent situation that requires your immediate attention, your family can easily get in touch with you via the main office. The phone numbers are **228-5330** or **228-5335**. The administrators and secretaries will not hesitate to get you out of class if your parents call with an emergency. Please make sure that your parents are aware of the policy, and most importantly, the phone number.

These are some of the questions that I have anticipated that you might have. If any of the answers are unclear, ask, and I will clarify. If I have failed to anticipate an important question, please ask! That is why I am here!!!!

Please download these Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) from my web site at <http://www.abcandj.com/students.html>, and along with a parent or guardian, please sign and return a copy to indicate your awareness of and willingness to meet the expectations for this class. Please do this by Tuesday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Keep this copy for your own reference.

I understand the rules and expectations explained above, and I will follow them. I understand that doing so will help the chances of success for myself and for the class as a whole.

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Student

Date

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Parent

Date