

## **2305DL Federal Government Term Paper**

### **Assignment**

Write a three-page minimum research paper analyzing US government, politics, and foreign policy.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government
- Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties
- Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics

### **Common Assignment Objectives**

- Learn about a current political issue, problem, or person of political consequence
- Develop your internet and library research skills
- Evaluate your topic from the perspective of different cultures and/or political viewpoints as well as your own
- Improve communication and critical thinking skills

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to analytically and critically explore course material through “real world” political events, as well as synthesize material from throughout the semester.

### **Instructions and Paper Topic**

As a policy analyst on the National Security Council, you have been selected to organize a North Korea Task Force to make policy recommendations for how the US should engage with North Korea. Write a three page minimum memo that very briefly outlines the nature of the threat, provides two different policy options that could be pursued to address relations with North Korea or the threat posed by North Korea, and which policy option you recommend based upon your research and analysis. In your memo, you need to consider or address the following:

- Assessment of US-North Korea relations and the current situation (recall that bilateral US-North Korea talks may occur in May), and whether or not the nature of the North Korean threat has significantly changed over the last year
- Whether the US’s previous policies toward North Korea can provide any guidance for understanding the current situation and/or your proposed policy options
- Outline the pros and cons of the two policy options you present in the memo (both policy options should be realistic)
- Consider the broad military, political, and diplomatic implications or consequences of your two policy options
- The reasons why you recommend the policy that you do

Your analysis should be based upon evidence, research, and analysis. You need to support your claims and “prove” your positions with documented facts. Do not “cook” your results. To “cook” your results means that you have a predetermined policy you want to recommend and you make the facts fit that recommendation. In the government policy world the best recommendations come from careful consideration of facts and evidence, which should then lead you to a conclusion or recommendation. So start with research and fact-gathering first, then determine two policy options for dealing with the

North Korea situation/threat. Once you have two viable policy options, use research and analysis to determine which option is the best. Weigh the pros and cons of each option and argue for your selection based upon facts and evidence.

### Sources Requirements

You are required to use a minimum of 3 distinct sources. Use of the internet for research is encouraged. You will find useful information from sources such as the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and other online political resources. You may **NOT** use encyclopedias, dictionaries, or interviews with family and friends as sources for this term paper. **You may NOT reference Wikipedia or sites like Wiki Answers, Yahoo Answers, Answer.com, or any other general Q&A answer-style website. You may NOT use or reference papers and materials from paper writing services, and you may not reference comments from discussion boards and online forums.** You may cite the textbook, but do not rely on it as your sole or primary source of information.

The following online sources are also prohibited, because they tend to be one-sided and/or may not contain accurate/factual information:

- The Truth Examiner
- Huffington Post
- MSNBC
- Occupy Democrats
- US Uncut
- Salon
- DailyKos
- The Drudge Report
- The Blaze
- Fox News
- Breitbart News Network
- Gateway Pundit
- Red State
- Real Clear Politics
- Infowars

### Paper Requirements

- Three full pages of text minimum page length (header and personal information at the beginning of the paper, additional or excessive spacing, margins larger than 1 inch, graphs, pictures, and the works cited/endnotes page do not count toward your three pages of text minimum)
- Three distinct sources minimum (DO NOT use Wikipedia, family/friend interviews, dictionaries, encyclopedias, question/answer sites, or papers/research from paper writing services)
- 12 point font, using Times New Roman font
- Double-spaced
- One inch margins
- Number pages
- Name in header at top of page
- Grammar, punctuation, and spelling matter and affect the overall quality of your work. Do not use contractions (can't = cannot, you're = you are, it's = it is, etc). Watch out for similar sounding words (weather/whether, affect/effect, then/than, lose/loose, etc).
- Organization of thought and writing mechanics matter. Use an introduction to present your topic, thesis or argument, and outline of your paper. Use a conclusion to summarize your main points. In the body of the paper, use multiple paragraphs with a clear main idea and supporting statements, research, and evidence.
- All sources must be documented, both in the text and with a works cited page. Use the MLA or Chicago Style format for documentation.

- Remember that you must have documentation in the text of the paper and include bibliographic information
- Remember that if you take material from one of your sources – including but not limited to direct wording, paraphrasing, thoughts, ideas, analysis, or any other information – you must properly document it!
- See the plagiarism and documentation sections of the Discussion Board for more information
- **PROOF READ!!!!**

**Collaboration and Plagiarism**

You are encouraged to discuss the paper topic with your classmates. HOWEVER, this is not a partner or group assignment. The written assignment is to be your work alone. This includes, but is not limited to, all the mechanics of paper writing, such as: research, selection and use of sources, paper outlines and organization, examples and supporting evidence, analysis of the topic, and writing. Collaboration or plagiarism of the paper will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. **Plagiarism includes copying from sources word for word and including information from sources without proper documentation or attribution. It also includes copying ideas, thoughts, analysis, or other perspectives without crediting the source. Plagiarism on written assignments will result in a grade of zero for the assignment.** Please see the Discussion Board section on plagiarism for more information.

**Assignment Submission**

Remember, you are required to use one of the following formats for all essays and papers:

- Microsoft Word (.doc and .docx)
- TextEdit or Notepad (.txt)
- Rich Text (.rtf)

**Term Paper Rubric and Grading Criteria**

The following rubric and grading criteria will be used to evaluate your term paper.

<b>Following Assignment Directions</b>
- Paper length meets text requirements
- Use of at least three distinct sources
- Use of appropriate sources
- Proper documentation in text
- Works Cited page included
- Use of approved file format
<b>Following the Paper Topic</b>
- Paper addresses the paper topic or paper assignment
<b>Paper Organization</b>
- Clear thesis/main argument present
- Paper is logically structured, clear, and well organized
<b>Writing Mechanics</b>
- Sufficient and proper use of paragraphs
- Proper grammar

- Proper spelling and punctuation
- Proofreading and lack of typos and other errors
- Use of active voice writing
- Clear and concise writing
<b>Analysis and Argument</b>
- Full elaboration and explanation of ideas
- Critical analysis contributing to the successful argument of the thesis/main idea
- Sufficient “proof”/evidence provided to support arguments
- Argument is supported with evidence and fact, without personal opinion or editorializing
<b>Plagiarism</b>
- Paper is the work of the student alone and does not plagiarize

Factors that will affect your grade:

- **Examples and Organization** – Does your supporting evidence, or examples cited, support your argument? Does the paper organization support clarity in writing and allow you to fully address the assignment topic?
- **Clarity of Writing** – Do you get your point across clearly and concisely?
- **Strength of Argument** – Is your paper well thought out and documented? Did you “prove” your points with research, evidence, and analysis?
- **Elaboration and Explanation** – Support your arguments fully and explain statements that you make. Always address the WHY in your writing, and “unpack” your arguments
- **Mechanics** – Grammar, punctuation, spelling, correct formatting, documentation

A – Covers all points asked in the question, grammatically correct, minor to no typos or major punctuation/spelling errors, well-organized and clearly thought out, concise writing and structure, each point is fully explained and elaborated upon, examples are provided to “prove” the point, analytical and critical analysis above and beyond general recitation of the lecture material, well documented, excellent understanding of the course material

B – Covers all points asked in the question, may contain some grammatical errors, typos, or punctuation/spelling errors, less concise and organized than an A response, writing may be more vague and unclear, fewer examples and less explanation, may be sufficiently documented, critical and analytical analysis with a good understanding of the course material

C – Answer may be incomplete, may be errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling, or other typos, weak structure and organization, lack of clarity in writing or basic writing problems, few examples to explain the points being made, little elaboration, analysis or critical thinking, may have little or inadequate documentation, basic understanding of course material

D – Answer incomplete, may be significant problems with writing, punctuation, grammar, spelling, or other typos, little to no structure or organization, lack of explanation or elaboration in answer, may have inadequate or missing documentation, no analytical or critical thought, poor understanding of course material

F – No answer, incomplete answer, may be significant problems with writing, punctuation, grammar, spelling, or other typos, no structure and organization of thought, complete lack of explanation or elaboration of answer, no analysis or critical thought, may have inadequate or missing documentation, very poor understanding of course material

