



UNITED STATES SENATE
★ YOUTH PROGRAM ★

EDUCATION • LEADERSHIP • PUBLIC SERVICE

2019-20 Essay Topics for Oregon

Please write an essay of three or less double-spaced pages using 12-point font and one inch margins, exploring **one** of the following topics. You are welcome to include a works cited section, which will not count as part of your three pages. Be sure to indicate the topic question you have chosen at the top of the essay. Good luck!

1. Why did the U.S. government withdraw from the “Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action” (otherwise known as the “Iran Deal” or the “Iran Nuclear Deal”) in 2018? What have been the consequences so far of that withdrawal?
2. A relatively large number of candidates are vying for the Democratic Party’s 2020 presidential nomination. Will the size of the Democratic field make it more or less difficult for the party’s eventual nominee to win the 2020 general election against the Republicans? Please discuss.
3. Recently a number of Oregon Senators fled the state to avoid a quorum on the “Cap and Trade” bill. Discuss the legitimacy of this tactic by elected officials in a democracy.
4. Oregon is one of several states with a ballot initiative system. Explain the strengths and weaknesses of this method for changing Oregon’s Constitution or to adopt or reject laws.
5. Oregon’s seven electoral votes have all been awarded to Democratic presidential candidates in the last eight elections (since 1988). However, nearly all of the Oregon counties beyond the I-5 corridor have elected Republican representation. Explain why the U.S. uses an Electoral College system. Should electoral votes be awarded on a “winner takes all” basis?