

Select one of the following essay prompts. Complete your response in 1000 words or less. Be sure to include a works cited page if using other sources.

A. What role did local election officials, state judges, and federal judges play in confirming Joseph Biden's election as the 46th president of the United States?

B. Why is gerrymandering so effective in American politics today? Does it increase or decrease electoral competition? What impact has it had, if any, on the representation that voters receive?

C. Discuss the grounds on which the U.S. Supreme Court declared same-sex marriage a constitutional right in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Is the issue now firmly settled in American politics?

D. Discuss why no Republicans in the U.S. House or U.S. Senate voted for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which President Biden signed into law on March 11, 2021. What factors led to the state of party polarization that exists today?

E. What is the purpose of the legislative filibuster in the U.S. Senate? How has the use of the legislative filibuster changed over the last 100 years? Should the legislative filibuster be eliminated?

F. As of June 2021, seven counties in Oregon have voted to secede from Oregon and join Idaho. Discuss the reasons voters in these counties want to leave Oregon for Idaho. What is the process for counties to leave one state and join another? Explain why this movement is likely or unlikely to achieve its goal?