

ORCHARD PARK HIGH SCHOOL
Participation in Government Project
P.i.G. 2

As a part of the course in Government, all students must satisfactorily complete two major projects to fulfill the requirements for graduation. The first major project is a public policy project which will account for 60% of a student's final assessment. The second is a participation in government project which will account for 40% of a student's final assessment. Failure to complete either portion of the final assessment by the assigned dates will result in a grade of zero (0) for that component. If any portion is completed late, the project is considered incomplete and a grade of zero (0) will be submitted for the corresponding project. This means that a student has satisfied the participation in government requirement necessary for graduation, but must still earn a passing average of 65% for the course. The final assessment will count as 20% of the total final course average.

To satisfactorily complete the participation in government project, students are required to attend four (4) field experiences and complete an analytical summary for each experience. The field experiences are geared towards involving students in the process of how various components of the American system of government operates. To accomplish this, students may:

- 1.) Attend meetings for any governmental board (town board, school board, STAP-Com, etc.)
- 2.) Attend court sessions excluding traffic court at any level (town, city, federal, etc.)
- 3.) Participate in fieldwork with any police force (town, city, county, etc.)
- 4.) Participate in Youth Court
- 5.) Participate in government related competitions (Model UN, Model Congress, Mock Trial, etc.)

*** Any observations other than stated above need signed approval from the Participation in Government coordinator.**

****Students must attend at least two (2) separate types of field experiences, i.e. may not attend more than two school board meetings regardless of district. Additionally, a village board and a town board are considered the same type of organization, but a town board and a planning board do not conduct the same type of legislative business and therefore may each be observed twice. Participation in a full year organization may also only count for two observations, i.e. Mock Trial for the entire year may only account for two (2) of the required four experiences.**** If more than two at the same "type" of organization are submitted, or observations are scheduled on the same day, the student will have to repeat an observation. For example, you may not attend two sessions of traffic court on the same date. It will count toward one observation. If submitted past the final due date, credit for the entire project will be denied. Observation forms may not be signed by family members; another representative of the organization must sign to verify completion of the observation. Signatures of a questionable nature may require further verification by the Government Field Coordinator. Students will be contacted about additional information needed.

For each of the field experiences attended, students must fully complete P.i.G. forms 3A, 3B, 3C, & 3D including a full heading and name and signature/seal from the chair of the board meeting attended or from the supervisor of the field experience. The **original** copy of each of these forms must be turned in **within one week** following the field experience and will be counted as part of the final assessment for the course. Failure to complete the form with appropriate information may result in denial of credit for the observation. Forms submitted after one week past the observation date will earn 1/2 credit. Forms submitted two weeks past the date of the observation will not earn points toward the final assessment, and will only count for graduation credit. A student may wish to complete another observation to have the opportunity to earn full credit. Students should make a copy of the observation submitted for his/her records.

Students who fail to complete either section of the final assessment and/or who do not earn a passing average of 65% must repeat the course in order to graduate.