

ORCHARD PARK HIGH SCHOOL

AP US Government Observation Project and Parent Letter

A required part of the Advanced Placement course in US Government and Politics is the satisfactory completion of two major projects. Both projects must be satisfactorily completed ON TIME for students to graduate. Failure to complete either portion of the final assessment by the assigned dates will result in a grade of zero (0%) for that component. The final assessment grade takes the place of a final exam and will count as 20% of the total final course average.

- One of the projects is a public policy project which will be completed after the AP Exam and will count for 40% of a student's final assessment grade.
- The second mandatory project is a government participation project which will count for 60% of a student's final assessment. If any of the six observations are not handed in or accepted, the project is considered incomplete and a grade of zero (0%) will be submitted for the full project grade. Please note that if the student still earns an overall passing average of 65% for the course, he/she **MUST** still complete both projects as per OPCS Board of Education approved policy. **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.**

To satisfactorily complete this project, students are required to locate and attend two government field experiences per marking quarter and complete an observation summary for each experience. The field experiences are geared towards involving students in the process of how various components of the system of government operates. To accomplish this, students may:

- 1.) Attend meetings for any governmental board (town board, school board, STAP-Comm, Erie County legislature, city of Buffalo Common Council etc.)
- 2.) Attend court sessions (excluding traffic court) at any level (town, city, federal, etc.)
- 3.) Participate in fieldwork with any police force or government official (town, city, county, etc.)
- 4.) Participate in Youth Court for their town OR work on an election campaign
- 5.) Carry out their duties as a Senior Class or STAP-COMM officer

For each of the field experiences, students must fully complete an observation worksheet signed by an official at the meeting or from the supervisor of the field experience. If virtual attendance is required due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students must post the meeting link and screenshot of their attendance on their observation writeup. The **writeup MUST be submitted in the correct location on the Google Classroom within one week** following the observation and will be counted as part of the final assessment for the course. Failure to complete the form **within one week** and with all necessary information may result in denial of credit for the observation. Except for summer observation work, forms submitted after one week past the observation date will earn 1/2 credit. Forms submitted over 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 **MUST** keep a copy or picture of each observation submitted for his/her records.

Important Notes:

*** Any observations other than those above need signed approval from the AP Government coordinator.**

****Students must attend at least two (2) different types of field experiences per quarter, (i.e. may not attend more than two school board meetings regardless of district) or the student will have to repeat one of the observations. ***Participation in Youth Court, field work with a police officer/government official and/or duties as a class officer may only count toward ONE observation for the entire year.**

***** Signatures of a questionable nature may require further verification by the AP Government Coordinator. Students will be contacted if additional information is needed. A student may NOT work with or have an observation form signed by a family member.**

******ANY INFORMATION not answered above can be found on the Google Classroom or by emailing Mrs. Feeley at mfeeley@opschools.org**