

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Free Response Questions

Unit 2: Branches

Unit 2 Argument Essay

The structures, powers and functions of both houses of Congress affect the policy making process. Develop an argument that assesses the impact of chamber-specific procedures on the policy-making process.

- Articulate a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and establishes a line of reasoning. (Make a claim. i.e. "I think that..." then include a statement of causation that includes a word such as "because" or "therefore.")

- Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of accurate and relevant information.
 - At least ONE piece of evidence must be from:
 - U.S. Constitution • Federalist 51 • Articles of Confederation
 - The second piece of evidence must be from a different source on the list above OR from your knowledge.
 - Use reasoning to explain why your evidence supports your claim/thesis

(Describe evidence #1 from a listed source. Include a statement of support indicating that "This evidence supports my claim because...")

2 - Quantitative

Judicial Appointments to Federal Courts of General Jurisdiction

(George H.W. Bush – Barack Obama)

| | H.W. Bush (R) | Clinton (D) | W. Bush (R) | Obama (D) |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| <i>African-American</i> | 11 | 61 | 23 | 60 |
| <i>Latino</i> | 8 | 23 | 30 | 36 |
| <i>White</i> | 168 | 177 | 264 | 206 |

Source: Jonathan K. Stubbs, "A Demographic History of Federal Judicial Appointments by Sex and Race: 1789-2016," *Berkeley La Raza Law Journal*, 2016.

Use the table above to answer the questions.

- A. Identify the president from the chart who appointed the most minority judges to the Federal courts.
- B. Describe a similarity or difference between the judicial appointments of Democrat presidents and Republican presidents, as illustrated in the information graphic, and draw a conclusion about that similarity or difference.
- C. Explain how judicial appointments by presidents might impact the outcome in U.S. presidential elections.
