Students in Principles of American Democracy and AP Government will choose a topic related to political thought, a current policy issue or constitutional principle which has at least two debatable points of view and construct a researched argument based on facts and their interpretative analysis of facts. This project will be completed as **a major assignment for both English (AP English Language and ERWC) and AP Government and Principles of American Democracy** courses with periodic assignments leading towards the final research paper completed in and for both classes.

Students will research their selected topic to first determine the adequacy of available information in primary and secondary source materials. Upon teacher approval of their topic by September 11th, the student will take a position that supports or refutes the central question relating to the topic. The student’s argument must recognize the opposing perspective. In addition, students should connect and discuss the historical events with the American literature of the period. The research project will culminate in the writing of an **8 to 12-page** (minimum 8 pages, 12-point font, double-spaced paper submitted through Google Docs to both your English and Government teachers). This Research Paper will also satisfy a portion your Senior Portfolio Graduation requirement.

The following is the schedule of the steps and due dates for this semester-long assignment:

**Step 1 – Choose a Topic** – **50 points**

*Student will select a topic from American politics and government which is relevant to contemporary time and turn-in an index card identifying the topic and their preliminary thesis statement.* **Due Wednesday September 11th.**

>> **AP English Language** students will deliver their Visual Inventory Project Wednesday September 11, 2013.

**Step 2 – Conduct Research** (Submit in History - **5 points per card)** and Compile **Annotated Bibliography** (Submit in English – **100 points)**

*Students will identify between 8 and 10 sources, including at least 3 books as source material, for research and submit at least 20 index cards (to your History teacher) with research information and works cited information according to MLA format. The* ***Annotated Bibliography*** *(submitted to your English teacher) and all Research Paper formats, is found on the LEMA website.* **Due Friday September 27th.**

**Step 3 – Write Rough Draft** (Introduction Paragraph, including Thesis Statement + 2-3 Pages) – **100 points**

*Students will write and submit a rough draft of their introduction and thesis statement plus their first two to three pages for the research paper for peer and teacher review.*

>> **AP English Language** students will deliver their draft Visual Argument Wednesday October 3, 2013. Students will present their Final Visual Arguments in a Gallery Walk (date TBD)

**Step 4 – Submit First Draft** (8 to 10 Pages) – **150 points**

*Students will write and submit a first draft of their research paper for peer and teacher review that must include the Works Cited page.* **Due Thursday October 31st.**

**Step 5 - Submit Revised, Final Research Paper** – **200 points**

*After peer review and teacher comments, revise your research paper and submit your final draft electronically to your English and your Government teachers.* **Due Friday November 22nd.**

**Step 3 – Write Rough Draft** – **100 points**

Students will present their research project using multimedia in their Principles of American Democracy or AP Government class **during the week of December 9th through 13th.**