Students in Principles of American Democracy/Economics and AP Government/H Economics will choose a topic related to political thought, a current policy issue, a Supreme Court case or a 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 Literature/H Modern Literature and ERWC) and AP Government/H Economics and Principles of American Democracy/Economics** 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 January 30, 2015, 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. The research project will culminate in the writing of an **3 to 5** (minimum 5 pages for AP, 12-point font, double-spaced paper submitted through Google Docs to both your English and Government/Econ teachers). **No credit will be given for papers without citations and a Works Cited Page.** 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 Friday, January 30, 2015.**

**Step 2 – Conduct Research** and Compile **Annotated Bibliography** (Submit in English – **100 points)**

*Students will identify between 4 and 6 sources, including at least 2 books as source material, for research and submit at least 10 index notecards or electronic notecards(to your Economics 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 February 13, 2015.**

**Step 3 – Write Rough Draft** (Introduction Paragraph, including Thesis Statement + 1-2 Pages **with citations**) – **100 points**

*Students will write and submit a rough draft of their introduction and thesis statement plus their first one to two pages for the research paper for peer and teacher review.* **Due Friday February 13, 2015**

**Step 4 – Submit First Draft** (2-4 Pages) – **100 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 Tuesday February 24, 2015.**

**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 Wednesday, March 18, 2015.**

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

Students will present their research project using multimedia in their Principles of American Democracy/Economics or AP Government/H Economics class **during the week of March 30 – April 3, 2015.**