

## CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

Choose one topic from the list below. Your answer should be 3 pages long, double-spaced with font not less than 12pt. and indicate at the top of your paper, the question title or the question number. Treat the Critical Paper as a "Mini Research Paper". Your paper should have a title page and page numbers.

Most of the questions are taken from the textbook. So, feel free to read the appropriate chapter(s) before writing your response. If you plan to use external sources, you definitely have to cite the sources of your information. Students will receive a failing grade for papers containing references from general encyclopedias, Wikipedia, or Dictionaries. **REMEMBER TO CITE YOUR SOURCES USING THE APA STYLE.**

1. How biased do you find the media as a whole? Try to as much as possible point towards specific instances of bias that you may have observed.
2. What is a preemptive war? Can a preemptive war ever be justified? In other words, can it be considered ethical? If not, why not? If so, under what circumstances?
3. What is impeachment and why is it a critical check on the power of the executive branch? In what ways are the standards unclear? How would you define "high crimes and misdemeanors"?
4. The framers of the Constitution understood democracy and republic to mean different things. Explain this difference and identify which concept the framers favored.
5. What is the equal protection clause? What three tests are associated with discrimination in law?
6. What do you think is the future of higher education? Can the costs continue to rise or will it eventually become unsustainable for a significant number of people? How can the costs be controlled?
7. What is meant by the term "separation of powers"? In what ways does it make the government stronger? Less prone to abuse? In what ways does it weaken the government? Make it more prone to abuse?
8. One of the key tactics of the Civil Rights Movement was the widespread use of civil disobedience. What is meant by civil disobedience? When can it be effective? When can it backfire?
9. How have the federal government's superior taxing policy and the economic interdependency of the American states contributed over time to a larger policy role for the national government? What role have federal grants-in-aid played in the expansion of federal authority?