



# REDLANDS eACADEMY

**Principles of American Democracy**

**Grade 12**

**Semester I**

**Tuesday 10:30-11:30**

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**Dear Students and Parents:**

**Welcome to Principles of American Democracy. We will be studying topics beginning with the Foundations of Democracy, The Constitution, Federalists and Antifederalists, The Supreme Court, Voting Rights, Roles of Congress, Federal Bureaucracy, Campaigns and Elections, Media and Politics and Foreign Policy.**

**Because High School is when a student's greatest desire is to freely express him or herself, it is most important that students have training in the skills of rhetoric so that they can say, clearly and convincingly, what is on their minds. Because self expression is significant, mastering the art of rhetoric allows students to express themselves with fluency, grace, elegance and persuasiveness. Without these skills, the desire for self-expression is frustrated and expression itself becomes inarticulate. Therefore, the years of high school are considered the rhetorical stage and are when students begin to actively engage with the ideas of the past and present-not just reading about them, but, tracing their development, and comparing them to other philosophies and opinions.**

**The goal of the rhetorical stage is a greater understanding of our own civilization, country, and place in time, stemming from an understanding of what has come before us. Although students in high school history will still record dates and read summaries of historical events, the focus of rhetoric-stage history is now on ideas rather than on facts. Students will still complete their required daily assignments with the Edgenuity curriculum but will now be analyzing, writing and subsequently discussing historical themes and developments through argument and persuasive speaking. By week three, students will choose a historical topic**

of study from this semester and will research, prepare, and submit a final project on that subject at the end of the semester.

So how does a student sort through, analyze and prepare to write about and discuss so much information and material especially while completing the requirements dictated by Edgenuity?

We will accomplish this by creating history notebooks with four basic elements:

1. note taking
2. classroom activities
3. research analysis
4. Organizing this information using the history notebook

You will need one large three ring note book full of notepaper. Label this notebook "US Government" and divide it into four sections:

1. Notes
2. In Class Projects and Activities
3. Essays
4. Final Project

You are expected to bring your notebook to every Government class meeting. Points will be deducted from your class participation grade for failing to maintain and carry your notebook each week.

I will officially grade your notebooks in class on our last day together before the module closes.

From here on students will follow the same basic pattern:

1. complete daily assignments from Edgenuity.
2. attend class on campus
3. participate in all classroom activities and projects
4. work on research paper for final project

Modules 1st Semester:

1. 8/10-9/16
2. 9/19-10/21
3. 10/24-11/18

4. 11/21-12/2
5. 12/5-12/13

**Grading:**

**70% of your overall grade will be based upon your scores from Edgenuity  
30% of your overall grade will be based upon your classroom attendance, participation, research paper and maintenance of your history notebook**

**Scoring;**

1. 100-98=A+
2. 97-92=A
3. 91-90=A-
4. 89-88=B+
5. 87-82=B
6. 81-80=B-
7. 79-78=C+
8. 77-72=C
9. 71-70=C-
10. 69-68=D+
11. 67-62=D
12. 61-60=D-
13. 59-0=F

**Parents and students can access grades @**

**<https://aeries.redlandsusd.net/ParentPortal/LoginParent.aspx>**

**Please have your parents read and sign this syllabus, place it in your Government notebook and keep it there. I will check this and your notebook during class on August 16th.**

**Parent signature:\_\_\_\_\_**

**You will be involved in many class activities, such as writing projects, seminars, presentations and field trips this semester. You will be required to fully participate and to contribute regularly in class discussions and presentations. You will also be learning how to write a convincing, persuasive argument and how to deliver it clearly and convincingly. We will also be working on preparing and completing your final research project.**

**You are going to busy and working hard but you will also be learning and discovering how history is really one long, sequential story filled with cause and effect. You will soon see that historical events are all linked together and you will discover the connections between these world events and your relation to them.**

**Sincerely, Mrs. Collins**