

Position Paper Instructions:

Read Chapter 2 of *Debating Democracy: A reader in American politics*. Bruce Miroff, Raymond Seidelman, and Todd Swanstrom.

You are to write a pithy 800-850 word position paper on the debate between Madison (Federalist) and Brutus (Anti-Federalist). I strongly advise you read these essays first before you run to the Internet gods!. You may have a unique interpretation of these essays, however, if you go straight to spark notes you could distort your own understanding (ever thought that maybe you are more clever than the person writing the material online?)

Format:

APA – 6th edition. See your cite right guide. Although there will only be one source, it is still important to cite whenever possible. Yes, a title and reference pages are necessary. (Feel free to use “I” even though it goes against the general rule).

Introduction: 350 words

The first 350 words you will have to summarize the main ideas of both authors. Make sure you present them objectively and then write your thesis statement.

Body: 450 words

Here you will write the supporting arguments for the thesis statement. It is reasonable to use arguments from the text, in fact you are encouraged to do so. I also suggest using your own ideas: ask yourself why you agree with Brutus or Madison? Write them down on paper to create an outline. Think through them thoroughly, make sure the arguments are clearly delineated. Do background research if needed (i.e., the purpose of the Federalist Papers) but do not use any outside information in the essay. Moreover, do not try to see “both sides” of the issue but don’t be overly colloquial. Avoid any ad hominin attacks.

Conclusion: 50 words

Restate your thesis.