

12th GRADE

Participation In Government



Half Hollow Hills

STUDENT PORTFOLIO MANUAL

HALF HOLLOW HILLS SCHOOLS

DIX HILLS, NEW YORK 11746

Dear 12th Grade Parents/Guardians:

What is Portfolio Assessment?

The grade 12 final average in American Government/Participation in Government will be an ongoing examination process throughout the semester. Portfolio assessment will be used in place of a final exam. However, a summative assessment will be given at the end of the semester that will count as part of the portfolio grade.

The purpose of the portfolio is to familiarize students with certain basic democratic concepts of the Federal, State and Local government, which are applicable in their daily lives. The content of these assignments will relate to a variety of political activities and concerns.

Each senior will maintain a portfolio of his or her work, which will be developed and reviewed regularly throughout the semester. The government portfolio will count as **20%** of the final average for the course. This will include a variety of assignments such as letter writing, essays, typed reports, oral and group assignments. The criteria for grading student's work will be reviewed by the teacher. Students will have ongoing meetings with the teacher and have an opportunity to improve their assignments by having their work previewed by the teacher prior to final deadlines.

As part of the government curriculum seniors will be required to complete a participatory activity. Student volunteers in these activities cannot receive financial compensation. You will find in this packet a listing of approved activities. In order to achieve credit for this course, a student must satisfactorily complete this participatory activity in conjunction with the portfolio assignment.

We want learning and evaluating to be an ongoing and continuous process based on real understanding. Parents and students will know the criteria for grading each assignment and there is an opportunity for review and discussion.

Portfolio Assessment is authentic to what the student is learning. At the conclusion of the semester, every senior will have learned the elements of good essay writing, the development of research techniques/research paper, the delivery of an oral presentation, the identification and explanation of various points of view and the engagement in a group activity.

Please indicate that you have read the assignments and are aware of the requirements by signing the form where indicated. If you have any additional questions, please contact your child's social studies teacher at High School East 631 592 3100 or High School West 631 592 3200.

Yours In Education,

Grade 12 Social Studies Teachers

**PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT 12
PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT**

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

DUE _____

ASSIGNMENT 1 - NATIONAL LEVEL Choose a member of Congress

DUE _____

ASSIGNMENT 2 - STATE LEVEL Choose a member of the State Legislature

DUE _____

ASSIGNMENT 3 - LOCAL LEVEL Choose an official from the County, Township, Village,
School District, or other local level.

DUE _____

ASSIGNMENT 4 - ORAL PRESENTATION Give findings and analysis of your research and
your **participatory requirement**.

DUE _____

ASSIGNMENT 5 - SUMMATIVE EVALUATION

Date: T.B.A.

PROCEDURES: For Assignments 1-3, each student will...

1. Give political history and background of official. (1-2 pages)
2. Identify and analyze the official's view on 3 major issues, platform he/she ran on, and list endorsements and financial contributors. (2-3 pages)
3. Give your views and opinions of official. (1-2 pages)
4. Works cited page

Other instructions: Internal citations required, 12-point font, & 1-inch margins.

Failure to hand in assignments on time will result in a possible reduction of grade.

TOTAL: 5 – 10 PAGES TYPED

-----cut-----cut-----cut-----cut-----

This assignment is a course requirement. Failure to complete the total assignment (**ALL ASSIGNMENTS LISTED**) will lead to the failure of the course. Please sign and have your parents/guardians sign on the appropriate line and return to your teacher by the due date.

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE DATE STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

**PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT 12 H
PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT**

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

DUE _____

ASSIGNMENT 1 - NATIONAL LEVEL Choose two members of Congress

DUE _____

ASSIGNMENT 2 - STATE LEVEL Choose two members of the State Legislature

DUE _____

ASSIGNMENT 3 - LOCAL LEVEL Choose two officials from the County, Township, Village, School District, or other local level.

DUE _____

ASSIGNMENT 4 - ORAL PRESENTATION Give findings and analysis of your research and **participatory requirement.**

DUE _____

ASSIGNMENT 5 - SUMMATIVE EVALUATION

Date: T.B.A.

PROCEDURES for Assignments 1-3. Pick **TWO** officials. For **each one** chosen:

1. Give history and background information of both officials. Discuss reasons for candidacy. Analyze similarities and differences. (2-3 pages)
2. Identify the official's view on at least three issues that affect his/her level of government. List endorsements, financial contributors, P.A.C. money, etc.(3-5 pages)
3. Compare and contrast the two officials you have chosen. (2-3 pages)
4. Give your views of each person. (1-2 pages)
5. Works cited page

Other Instructions: Internal citation required. 12 point font. One inch margins. Failure to hand in assignments on time will result in a possible reduction of grade.

TOTAL: 8 – 13 PAGES TYPED

-----cut-----cut-----cut-----

This assignment is a course requirement. Failure to complete the total assignment (**ALL ASSIGNMENTS LISTED**) will lead to the failure of the course. Please sign and have your parents/guardians sign on the appropriate line and return to your teacher by the due date.

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE

DATE

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

SUGGESTED RESEARCH TOPICS

Health Care	Drinking Water Quality
Environment	Drinking Age
Gun Control	Insurance Premiums
Primary Procedure	Consumer Issues
Political Action Committees	Credit Rating
Presidential Appointments	Child Safety
Congressional Investigations (Committee)	Adoption Rights
Government Regulation of Banking	Child Abuse
Tax Reform	Spouse Abuse
Abortion	Product Liability
Government Regulations	Let the Buyer Beware
Civil Suit Against the President	Let the Seller Beware
Death Penalty	Surrogate Motherhood
Legalization of Drugs	Gay Rights
Church/State relations	Student Rights
Transportation	In Loco Parentis
Prayer in Schools	Freedom of Speech: Salute the Flag
Mental Health	Regulation of Music/Entertainment
Land Use/Zoning	Censorship/Pornography
Acid Rain	Police Brutality
Coastal Preservation	Racial Profiling
Endangered Species	Cable Regulations
Regulation of Boating	Selective Service
Funding of National Endowment of the Arts	Care for Elderly
Solid Waste Management	Right to Die
Emission Control	Nuclear power/Nuclear waste
Building Permits	Loitering/Trespassing
Industrial Development	Curfew Laws
Tax Abatements	Social security
Union Membership	Public Housing
Gerrymandering	Funding of Education
Gender Issues	Parks
Welfare Reform	Handicapped
Crime	Toxic Waste
Prison Reform	Homeland Security
State Mandates	Public Smoking
	Foreign Policy – Select Region/Country
	NAFTA

SUGGESTED WEBSITES

Alliance for Better Campaigns – Reinventing politics on TV – <http://www.bettercampaigns.org>

Amnesty International – <http://amnesty.org>

Ben’s Guide to Government for Kids – <http://bensguide.gpo.gov>

Center for Civic Education – <http://www.civiced.org>

Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law – <http://www.centerforhumanrights.org/>

Central Intelligence Agency – <http://www.cia.gov>

Choices for the 21st Century – <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/EPTW/eptw8/eptw8a.html>

Close Up Foundation – <http://www.cpn.org/>

CongressLink – <http://www.congresslink.org>

Constitutional Rights Foundation – <http://www.crf-usa.org/>

Federal Election Commission – Citizen Guide – <http://www.fec.gov/citizen-guide.html>

FirstGov – <http://firstgov.gov>

Foreign Policy Association – <http://www.fpa.org>

Freedom House – <http://freedomhouse.org>

Human Rights Watch – <http://hrw.org>

Internal Revenue Service – <http://www.irs.gov>

Kids Voting USA – Involving youth in Elections – <http://www.kidsvotingusa.org/>

League of Women Voters – <http://www.lwv.org/>

Library of Congress – <http://www.loc.gov>

Local Government Handbook – <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/list9.html>

Mediawatch – <http://pbs.org/newshour/media>

Nassau County Government – <http://www.co.nassau.ny.us>

National Archives and Records Administration – <http://www.nara.gov/>

National Constitution Center – <http://www.constitutioncenter.org>

SUGGESTED WEBSITES Continued...

National Governors Association – <http://www.nga.org>

National Issues Forums – <http://www.nifi.org>

National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center – <http://www.safeyouth.org/home.htm>

National Voting rights Museum – <http://www.voterights.org>

NCSL National Conference of State Legislatures – <http://www.ncls.org>

New York State – <http://www.state.ny.us>

New York State Assembly – <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us>

New York Department of Labor – <http://www.labor.state.ny.us>

New York State government Information Locator Service – <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/ils>

New York State Historical Association – <http://www.nysha.org>

New York State Senate – <http://www.senate.state.ny.us>

New York State Unified Court System – <http://www.courts.state.ny.us>

New York Times Education – <http://nytimes.com/learning>

Newsweek School Site – <http://school.newsweek.com>

Oingo's Social Issues – <http://www.oingo.com>

Open Secrets – Information on Money in Politics – <http://www.opensecrets.org>

Peace Corps – <http://www.peacecorps.gov/>

Project Vote Smart – <http://www.vote-smart.org/>

Political Issues – <http://www.politics1.com/>

Public Agenda – Issues and Analysis – <http://www.publicagenda.org>

Quorum.org – Discuss Elections and Issues – <http://www.quorum.org>

Selective Service System – <http://www.sss.gov/tg2000.htm>

States and Capitals – <http://www.50states.com/>

Suffolk County Government – <http://www.co.suffolk.ny.us>

The Kids in the House – <http://clerkkids.house.gov>

SUGGESTED WEBSITES Continued...

Thomas (Legislative Information) – <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

United Nations – <http://www.un.org/>

United Nations Association of the United States of America – <http://www.unausa.org/>

United States Constitution Society – <http://www.constitution.org/>

United States Department of State – <http://www.state.gov/>

United States House of Representatives – <http://www.house.gov/>

United States Senate – <http://www.senate.gov/>

US Mayors – <http://www.usmayors.org/>

Web White and Blue 2000 – <http://www.webwhiteblue.org/participate>

White House – <http://www.whitehouse.gov>

World Press Review – <http://www.worldpress.org/>

Worldwide Governments on the WWW – <http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/world.html>

Youth-E-Vote – National Mock Vote for K-12 Students – <http://www.youthevote.net/>

SUGGESTED PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES

(Minimum 3-4 hours of involvement, not limited to those listed)

Community Service:

Youth Boards
Senior Citizens' Groups
Consumer Protection Agencies
March of Dimes or other similar groups
Student Exchanges or other similar groups

Interviewing a Public Official

Town Committeeperson
Federal Officials
County Officials
State Officials
Government Agency Heads

Monitoring a Public Forum:

Campaign Debates: National, State, Local
Government Hearings
Tape televised coverage of Congressional hearings
C-SPAN
Campaign Rallies
Public forum meetings
Ballot propositions
Town board of Appeals hearings

Involvement in a Political Campaign:

Presidential
Congressional
State Legislature
School Board Trustee
Town Council
Fire Department
Library Trustee

Involvement with a Lobby/Special Interest Group:

NAACP
NRA
Americans for Democratic Action
New York Public Interest Research Group
Moral Majority
Legislative Action Committee
ACLU
National Organization of Women
Labor Unions

