

## POS Short Answer Sample Assignment

Answer each of the questions below in short-answer format. Write your responses in complete sentences. Your answers to each question should include two to three paragraphs (150-250 words).

Be sure to carefully read each question to ensure that each component is answered with the appropriate depth and detail. Your answers should be free of spelling and grammar errors. When using reference material, you must properly cite your sources using in-text citations. You must also include a reference list. All documentation must be rendered in [APA Citation Style](#) (see announcements for details on APA).

- **Define suffrage and explain its role in our republican form of government. What have been some changes that have been seen regarding rights of suffrage throughout the course of our nation's history?**

Knowledge - Definition of Term

Suffrage is defined as “the right to vote” (Magelby, et al 2008, p. 3). Our political system is known as a constitutional democracy or a republic. Our constitutional republic views suffrage as an integral part of our political structure. Although the right to vote was slow in progressing throughout our republic. The nature of a free, fair and frequent elections

Knowledge -  
Explanation of  
changes

are a necessary ingredient for this type of governmental system underscoring the value of popular consent (Magelby, et al 2008).

Writing – Cite Sources - In text  
source citation

The requirements for voting have changed over time. In the early years of our republic, only white male landowners could vote. The requirement to own property was

eventually dropped, but women, slaves, and American Indians did not enjoy this right. After the Civil War, the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment would constitutionally guarantee the right to vote for former slaves. It was not until the Nineteenth Amendment passed in 1920 that women were granted the right to vote. Unfortunately, there were still groups and classes of people that remained disenfranchised. In 1924, Congress granted Native Americans U.S. citizenship and the right to vote. The Twenty-fourth Amendment would ban all poll taxes and literacy tests from being used as a litmus test for voting. The Twenty-Sixth Amendment lowered the legal age of voting to eighteen years of age. (Lively, D. E. (1999)

Today, universal suffrage can be claimed in the United States by most citizens. However, there are still few groups of American citizens that are exempt. States determine some of the voting registration requirements and those laws can exclude convicted felons and those who are mentally incompetent from the right to vote (Gawronski, D 2010). Additionally, the varied registration laws across the United States have created additional barriers, such as; voter identification laws, voting deadlines, and voter roll purges (Gawronski, D 2010). Despite some of these setbacks, universal suffrage has seen huge strides in being realized in the United States. Active participation and civic engagement, such as universal suffrage, are fundamental principles of our republic.

#### Writing - Reference List

#### **Works Cited:**

Gawronski, Donald Introduction to Arizona History and Government (2010), Pearson Publishing, Boston, MA

Lively, D. E. (1999). Landmark Supreme Court Cases: A Reference Guide. Chapter 11: Fundamental Rights

Magleby, David B., Cronin, Thomas E., Light, Paul C., O'Brien, David M., and Peltason J.W. Government by the People. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2008.