

# POS 4413 - The American Presidency Analytical Essays

## Directions

The analytical essays are open-note and open-book, but you can **ONLY REFER TO CLASS MATERIALS**. That means you can only refer to course readings and course lecture slides. You cannot refer to any other source. You cannot collaborate with anyone at all when constructing your responses on the analytical essays. There is no set page limit on this assignment.

You submit one file electronically over Canvas, with two separate essays written in the one file. You respond to the first prompt, and then give the works cited list for course materials referred to in your response to this prompt. You then respond to the second prompt, and then give the works cited list for course materials referred to in your response to this prompt. Each response should have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Please follow the formatting guidelines discussed on page five of the syllabus. Each prompt is worth ten points each.

## Prompt One

What were the three major general theories of presidential power discussed in the lecture slides? What about presidential power is being proposed by each theory? How might presidential personality play a role in the way presidents actually exercise power while in office? Describe several reasons discussed in the lecture slides that have been offered as explanations for differences in presidential personality. Explain whether you believe Aaron Wildavsky's (1998) "two presidencies" thesis supports or contradicts the perspective that presidential personality matters when attempting to predict how presidents exercise power while in office.

## Prompt Two

The lecture slides describe the interactions between the executive branch and the mass media as a "give and take relationship." What is meant by this description? Based on the assigned readings, assess whether the president has the capacity to consistently influence the mass media's coverage of both the president and the president's policy agenda in ways that reflect the preferences of the president. Why might the "anti-intellectual" rhetoric described by Shogan (2007) and Lim (2008) be a response to the mass media's style of coverage about the executive branch? Be sure to explain what is meant by the concept of "anti-intellectual" rhetoric in your response.

## Good luck everybody!

Just so everyone is clear, citing lecture is absolutely necessary in the analytical essays, just like you would cite one of the course readings. Since you will likely be citing multiple lectures, you will use a lowercase letter after the year to distinguish between the different lectures. The lecture that gets cited first receives the (a) letter assignment, the second lecture that gets cited receives the (b) letter assignment, the third lecture that gets cited receives the (c) letter assignment, etc. You should do a separate lettering order for each essay.

Within the text of an essay you can do the following:

As Olds (2014a) writes, an executive agreement is an agreement that is established by the heads of government in multiple countries that does not require formal approval by the legislative branch in these respective countries. Presidents might opt to arrange executive agreements instead of treaties as a result of the pervasive level of partisan conflict that is often present in relations between the executive branch and Congress. Presidents have had to try and advance a policy agenda with a Congress comprised either of legislators from an opposing political party, or a mixture of legislators from each major party, for most of the time period

following World War II (Olds 2014b).

Then, in the works cited list, you would distinguish the works by lecture title and an appropriate date:

Olds, Christopher. 2014a. L13: The President, the Constitution, and Foreign Policy. November 27. Lecture presented for the University of South Florida, Tampa.

Olds, Christopher. 2014b. L10: Presidency, Congress, and Interest Groups - Part 1. November 2. Lecture presented for the University of South Florida, Tampa.