POLS 353 Research Project

Cut and paste these instructions and the following questions into your own document.  Do not delete the question numbers.  Please answer in complete sentences and paragraphs.  Please number your pages.  Use a 12 point font and standard 1 inch margins.  Provide a separate cover page with name, date, your home state, and class.

The History and Social Sciences Department uses the footnotes/bibliography format.  You will benefit from owning a copy of Kate Turabian’s  *A Manual for Writers.*There are also helpful links on citation on my webpage under the creatively labeled tab, ‘How to Do Footnotes’.  See [this](http://www.harding.edu/lklein/footnotes.htm).  Anytime you have to look up or ask someone the answer to a question, either on the web or in a book, including our textbooks, you need to footnote the source.

Footnotes are required for this assignment, **as are print-outs of all web sources** and a bibliography.  Be wary of the temptation to simply "cut and paste".   Do not do it; it is plagiarism.  This is not group work. You may not share research or writing with anyone from this class or from previous classes. You may use a personal contact (parent, former teacher, etc.) for a maximum of three questions in this assignment. Cite this source as an interview.

Please provide a copy of each source, and note on the copy, in the upper right hand corner, indicating which footnote(s) the source supports. Highlight the portion of the source material referenced in your paper. Present the copies in footnote order.  There is a copy of the grading [rubric](http://www.harding.edu/lklein/Research%20Paper%20for%20SLG%20Rubric%202014.doc) for this assignment on my webpage.

Me and My State and Local Government

**About Me:**

1.       Name:

2.       Major:

3.       Birthday (with year):

4.       Birthplace:

5.       Place I consider “home”:

6.       Full address with zip code:

7.       Describe “home”. (Wonderful, awful; growing, dying; rural, small town, urban, sub-urban; highly recommended, you-must-be-kidding, etc.)

8.       Are you planning to go back?

9.       What do you want to be when you grow up?

**About My State:**

**Background**

10.   Name:

11.   Motto:

12.   Year of Statehood:

13.   One to two paragraph historical summary:

**Constitution**

14.   Date of our most recent constitution:

15.   Number of constitutions:

16.   We amend the constitution via the following methods.  (Be specific about vote requirements, such as 2/3 of each chamber to propose and 51% of voters to ratify.):

17.   Length of constitution (in words):

18.   How many amendments?

19.   Character of changes to the constitution: (How often, how drastically, and by what method, if you have more than one method, have you amended it?  I don’t mean the changes from one full constitution to the next full constitution, I mean amendments.)

**Executive Branch**

20.   Governor and party:

21.   Other state-wide elected officials in the executive branch - Name, title and party affiliation:

22.   Governor's cabinet – Name, title and selection process (appointed or elected?) for each.  Please note this is often a different list than question #21.  If your state does not have a formal cabinet system, then use the five largest state agencies, measured by FTE or budget. Give me the name of each agency head, and tell me how they are selected and confirmed. Please let me know which list you are providing.

23.   Length of term, term limits for governor:

24.   Description of veto power (Line item?  How long for review? Over-ride requirement?):

25.   How does your governor score in the Institutional Powers chart on page 208 of your text?  What elements of the score are most important for your state? Use the language of your textbook when answering this question.

**Legislative Branch**

26.   Name of your legislative branch (General Assembly, State Legislature):

27.    Name of each chamber (House of Delegates, House of Representatives, Senate):

28.   Presiding Officer for each chamber (Title and person occupying the position):

29.   Person who actually RUNS each chamber, if different than the presiding officer (Title and person occupying the position):

30.   State Representative (Do NOT give me the name of your federal Congress member)

31.   State Senator (Do NOT give me the name of your federal Senators. If you have two names, you are answering this question incorrectly.)

32.   Number of State House Members:

33.   Size of House District by population:

34.   Number of State Senators:

35.   Size of Senate District by population:

36.   Annual or Biennial? Length of Session? Starting Date of Regular Session?

37.   Is your state legislature considered full time or part time?

38. How many people work for your legislature as their year round job?

39. Are there additional people added to the staff during session? If so, how many?

40.  Large or small professional staff? (Are the above numbers relatively large or small?):

41.   Which of Saffell’s models describes your legislature- citizen, professional or hybrid?  Why does your state fit this model? (See pages 175-178.)

42. Does your legislature have term limits? If so, what are they? How long have term limits been in place? Has there been any change to your term limits provisions?

**Judicial Branch**

43.   Judicial selection model:

44.   If elected - partisan or non- partisan:

45.   Judicial retention model? (This question is only for states with an appointment/retention model.)

46.   Draw or describe the structure of your state court system:

**Political Questions**

Party in control of

47.    House:

48.    Senate:

49.    Governor’s Office:

50.   Recent shifts in party control? Was your state once dominated by one party and is now a two party state? Is it still dominated by a single party, but that party has changed? If, for instance, two years ago was the first time since Reconstruction that Republicans controlled the House, Senate and the Governor’s Office, in your state, I need to know that.

Hot button issues – What policy questions are being debated and discussed in your state?  Provide one to two paragraphs per issue, minimum, including context and comments.  I want four separate issues.  Extra Happy Faces for bill numbers!

51.    Most pressing issue:

52.    Second most pressing:

53.   Looming on the horizon:

54.   We’ve argued over this one forever:

**Direct Democracy (Give petition requirements and voting margin requirements for each if your constitution provides for these rights.)**

55.  Do you have Constitutional Citizen’s Initiative?

56. Regular Citizen’s Initiative?

57. Referendum?

58. Recall?

**Education**

59.   What body has control and oversight of local schools (city, county independent districts, not the state education structure):

60.   Main source of education funds (revenue source – such as property tax or sales tax):

61.   Name the most important recent court suit or case regarding education in your state.   Briefly describe it.

62.  Name the most important recent policy decision regarding education in your state.   Briefly describe it.

**Local Government:**

**City (If you live outside of the city limits pick the closest city and answer the first three questions for this section.)**

63.   What form of city government? (Council/manager, etc.)

64.   If you have a mayor, do they work under a "weak" or "strong" mayor structure? Why? (These terms have a particular meaning - look at the language on page 236-239 in Saffell if you don't know what they mean.)

65.   Name of your Mayor and/or Manager:

66.   Name of your city council member or equivalent. I want the person or persons who represent your particular address. (If elected at large say so, then name all members. Please note, very FEW cities have at large elections.)

67.   Briefly (one to two paragraphs) describe the structure, quality and programs of your city government.  What services do they provide?

**County**

68.   What form of county government? (Commission, Quorum Court, etc.)

69.   If in Arkansas, name your County Executive or County Judge.  Otherwise, name of your Chief County Commissioner, County Mayor or equivalent:

70. Name your Justice of the Peace or the County Commissioner who serves your particular area. I want the person or persons who represent your particular address. (If elected at large say so, then name all members. Please note, only a FEW counties have at large elections.)

71.   Briefly describe the structure, quality and programs of your county government. What services do they provide?  What is the reputation of your county government?

January 15, 2014