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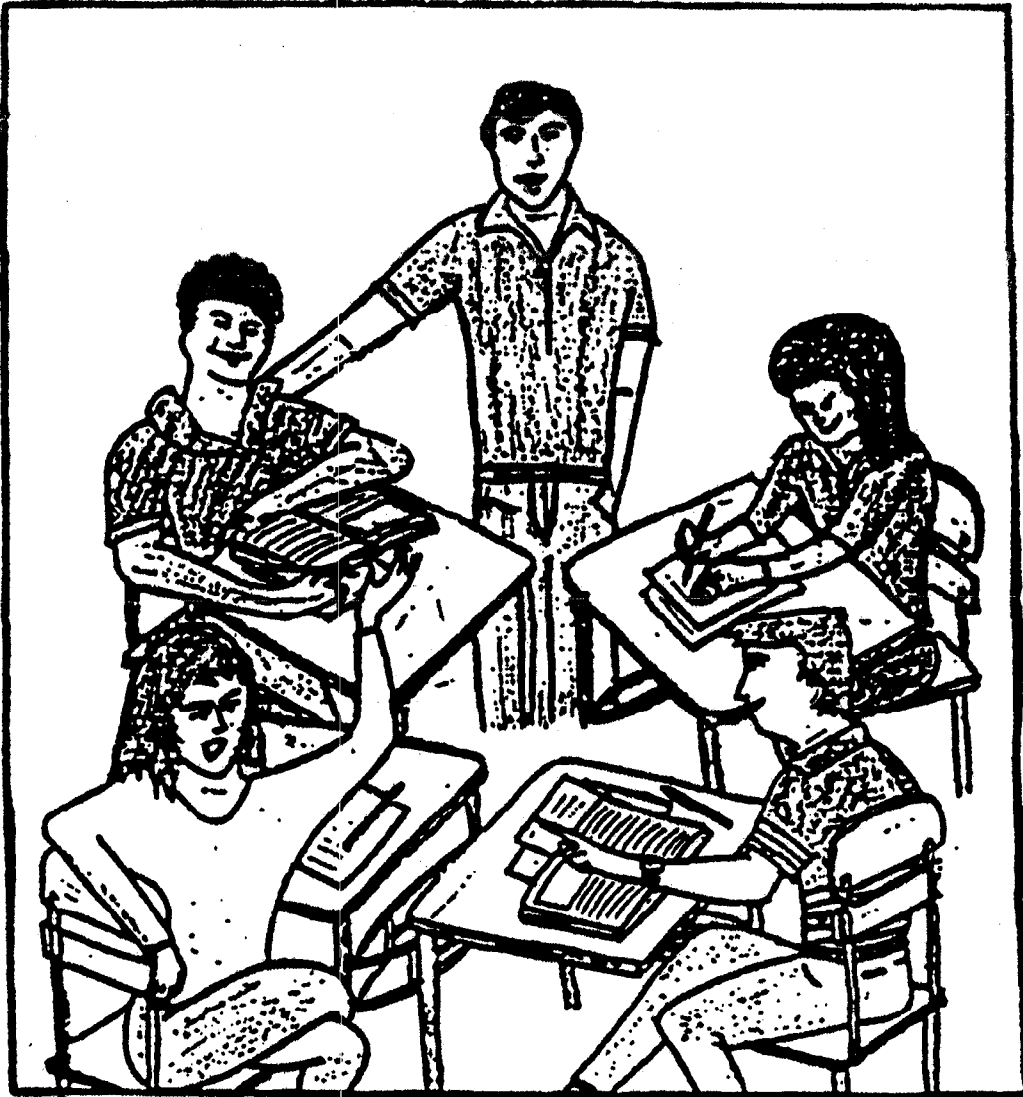
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Making Government Fun and Relevant II

by
Robert Leach



Relevance, Inc.

TWELVE
RELEVANCE EXERCISES
FOR
GOVERNMENT

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The past several years have been too good to be true if you happen to be a Government teacher in America. So many of the democratic principles and constitutional laws that we talk about in theory because they so rarely occur, have been taking place with regularity. Former President Bill Clinton was impeached a few years ago when an American President had not been impeached in over one hundred years. President George W. Bush became the first American President in over one hundred years to win an election with less popular votes than his opponent. He won because, although having less popular votes, Bush outnumbered Al Gore in the Electoral College. Most recently, a recall election in California has transpired for the first time in approximately one hundred years in an attempt to remove what many consider an ineffective governor.

These are indeed exciting times for Government teachers across America who can use these current examples to make their classes more meaningful and relevant. Invariably we will all have a few rebellious students who will question the relevance and importance of studying a particular subject. To be able to point to the importance of several votes determining the 2000 Presidential election or the power of one citizen to initiate the recall of a governor makes it somewhat easier to show the individual influence each one of us can have.

“Making Government Fun and Relevant, II” will also do a wonderful job of showing how important a role each citizen plays in the political process. Taking

current issues in the news, it challenges your students to analyze and formulate their position on matters that are of particular importance to them and all Americans.

Although we must give our students a strong background in the principles of government, our most important role is to develop effective citizens. Being well informed on major issues and formulating positions on these issues are the cornerstones of good citizenship.

The book provides numerous cooperative learning activities that examine many major issues today. Most questions are formulated in a manner that encourages divergent thinking to open-ended inquiries. The students love these activities because they are relevant to their lives and do not require the use of the text. You will love them because it gets the students to utilize their higher levels of critical thinking.

Each activity is very easy to implement. I would recommend that you go over the introduction and each question with the students before having them align in groups. You might want to set up the groups yourself, mixing them in a manner that you feel would accomplish the most productivity. I like to assign a leader who has the responsibility of getting input from each member before an answer is written down. You want to make it clear that the discussion is equally important if not more so than the actual answers that are recorded.

The day after the group discussions I recommend that a representative from each group present their findings to the class. Other members are free to add their

input as each question is answered. I also recommend that each group research one or more of the questions that they have answered. You might want to assign each group a different question to research further. This should provide plenty of information for a very stimulating class discussion. I have had tremendous success with these activities with my students and I am confident you will too.

Government
Gay Marriages: To Be Or Not To Be?

Name _____
Date _____
Period _____

Introduction:

In 2003 the conservative Supreme Court of the United States surprisingly ruled that the sexuality that takes place between consenting gay partners should not be considered illegal. This overturned a Texas state statute outlawing such activity. Some Americans fear that progress and acceptance for the gay life style could lead to the legality of gay marriages. While some would see this as progress, others are certain that this would lead to the serious demise of society. We will explore this issue in the questions below.

Directions:

Answer the following questions within a group and be prepared to discuss them with the rest of the class.

1. List two benefits to society in the acceptance of gay marriages.
2. List two disadvantages to the acceptance of gay marriages.
3. A few years back there was a controversy about gays serving in the military. After much debate it was decided that, rather than eliminating gays from the military, a policy of “don’t ask, don’t tell” would be adopted. The government seems to be saying we are better off when gays keep their unions a secret. Acceptance of gay marriages would make their unions public knowledge. Do you think society is better off when gay unions remain secret? Explain.
4. The Catholic Church has declared that we should love and respect gay people but not allow gay marriages. Why do you suppose the Catholic Church feels this way?

5. Former major league baseball player, Billy Bean, retired from the game rather than continuing to risk that players would discover his gay sexual orientation. He later wrote a book admitting his gay orientation that he discovered while he was married to a woman. Do you think it would have been possible for him to remain faithfully married to the woman despite his orientation? Explain.
6. Although much of our legal system is based on Judeo-Christian ethics, some laws over the years have gone against these principles. Legalizing abortion and outlawing prayer in public schools are just a few examples of this. Some feel that legalizing gay marriages would be another step in the wrong direction and would lead to the demise of society. Do you agree? Explain.
7. There is concern that children would be adversely influenced by the legalization of gay marriages. Children tend to model their behavior from the behavior of respected adults. Do you think that acceptance of gay marriages would influence children to “choose” a gay life style even when their orientation is heterosexual? Explain.
8. If you were a legislator what position would you support on this issue? Why?

Introduction:

One of the biggest responsibilities of the federal, state, and local governments is to provide a quality education for our youth. Today there is much debate over how to provide the best education possible so that “no child is left behind.” The experts have established state standards for each subject and require proficiency on standardized tests in order to reach the objective of a quality education for every one. The budget cuts that many states have suffered have provided an extra challenge to meet this goal. Are educators and students meeting the challenge? Are the educational opportunities that public schools provide comparable or better than what is offered at private schools? We will investigate issues central to our education system in the questions below.

Directions:

Answer the following questions within a group and be prepared to share your answers with the rest of the class.

1. Many people believe there are challenges for students today that make it more difficult to excel in school and go to a good university. Rank the categories below in terms of which ones provide the biggest challenges:

- ___ Colleges with higher entrance requirements
- ___ Growing up in a home where education is not a priority
- ___ Having teachers who are not proficient in their subject matter
- ___ Having to take advanced placement classes to get to quality universities
- ___ Many more students coming to American schools from foreign countries
- ___ Emphasis on academic rather than vocational classes
- ___ Lack of self-discipline and motivation for students
- ___ Promotion of students in lower grades who are not proficient in basic skills
- ___ Lack of enough encouragement to pursue a college education
- ___ High cost of going to college
- ___ Other

2. Many studies have shown that the basic skills of our youth are inadequate. Despite this evidence, there are very qualified students that are being rejected by the best

universities. Students with excellent grade point averages, S.A.T. scores of over 1300, and involvement in many extracurricular activities are often rejected by some of the top schools. Do you think it has become too difficult to get into the best universities? Explain.

3. Standardized tests and exit exams are being used by many states in an attempt to get the students and teachers to perform at their best. The logic is that the tests will increase the abilities of students. Do you think that this is the most effective way to achieve this goal? Explain.
4. In 1954 the Supreme Court passed the Brown vs. the Board of Education case to eliminate the segregation of schools. It was shown that schools were deliberately segregating and a lower quality of education was provided for minorities. Despite various attempts to integrate schools there are many that still largely consist of minorities. Do you think that our government has done enough to make sure these schools get as good of an education as the schools that have a predominantly white student body? Explain.
5. At various times proposals have been made to allow students and their parents to select the public school that they would like to attend. This is called the voucher system and students could select a school rather than having to attend the one in their neighborhood. Do you think your school would lose or gain students under this type of a system? Why?
6. Most experts suggest that the lower performances we see from students today have to do with poor writing skills. It is believed that in order to write better, students

need to do more reading. Is it possible to get more students to turn off the televisions and stereos, and read for pleasure? Explain.

7. One of the factors that helps private schools send so many of their students to top universities is that they have entrance tests that eliminate unqualified students. Do you think public high schools should also require entrance exams to get admitted to the school? Why?

Government
*The Right To A Fair Trial Vs. The Public's
Right To Be Informed*

Name _____
Date _____
Period _____

Introduction:

Often times in our system of government various protections guaranteed in the Bill of Rights can come into conflict. Freedom of the press allows the media to report the matters that allow citizens to be informed on major events and issues. However, the right of the press to keep the citizens informed can come into conflict with the rights of an accused criminal or the victim of a crime to get a fair trial. The reporting of a case or the character of the people involved can make it difficult to recruit a fair and impartial jury. We will investigate this topic in the questions below.

Directions: Answer the following questions within a group and be prepared to discuss them with the rest of the class.

1. A pending case involving the accidental shooting death of a limousine driver by former N.B.A. basketball player and commentator, Jason Williams, has gotten much media attention. Many versions of what transpired that evening has been reported ranging from a suicide to an accidental shooting. Do you think you could be an impartial and objective juror if you were selected for this case? Why?
2. Kobe Bryant has been accused by a woman in her late teens of rape. He has admitted to having sex with her but denies the accusation of rape. Much has been reported to discredit the character of the woman accusing Bryant. Do you think the media has been biased in favor of Bryant in reporting this story? Explain.
3. Radio talk shows, nightly news broadcasts, the newspapers, and magazines have covered the Kobe Bryant case on a daily basis. Do you feel the media is attempting to provide the public with accurate information or they are just trying to get good ratings? Explain.

4. Many people have speculated on news programs whether or not Kobe Bryant is guilty of rape before any of the evidence has been presented in a court of law. Do you think that when the founding fathers created freedom of the press, it was done so people would be able to try cases before they were actually held in a court of law? Explain.

5. The coverage of the Kobe Bryant case has been referred to as a “media circus.” The implication seems to be that the case is more about entertainment for the public rather than providing American citizens with their constitutional guarantee to be informed. Do you think that, for most Americans, their interest in the case is for entertainment or seeking to know the truth? Explain.

6. A couple of other unusual cases involve the murders of basketball players in separate incidents. One was the murder of former N.B.A. basketball player, Bison Dele, and the other was the murder of the University of Baylor basketball player, Patrick Dennehy. Dele was murdered by a brother that later committed suicide. The alleged murderer of Dennehy was a former teammate. The accused murderer claimed that Dennehy pointed a loaded gun at him first. Do you think that the widespread coverage of cases of this nature promotes or interferes with the concept of justice being served? Explain.

7. It seems that a growing number of athletes are accused of violent crimes. Do you think athletes are becoming more violent or there are just more people in the public that are trying to gain fame and money by taking them to court? Explain.

Government
Celebrities As Politicians

Name _____
Date _____
Period _____

Introduction:

Former United States President, Ronald Reagan, was a very successful movie star before becoming a politician. Although he was involved in a controversy called "Contra-gate," many historians rate him highly as a President. He seemed to have a rare ability to get his adversaries to like him even when they disagreed with his politics. Many people believe that much of his success as a politician was derived from his experiences as an actor.

More recently, Arnold Schwarzenegger, the movie star, is attempting a career in politics. Although the constitution forbids the foreign born actor from becoming President or Vice-President, many other offices are available to him. Do you think the acting profession provides a good background to prepare a person to be an effective politician? We will investigate this topic in the questions below.

Directions:

Answer the following questions within a group and be prepared to discuss them with the rest of the class.

1. List five qualities, skills, or attributes that an actor or celebrity would possess that would be beneficial as a politician.
2. Do you think there are some areas where an actor would be deficient in becoming a politician? If so, what would those areas be?
3. Arnold Schwarzenegger was immediately popular with voters when he announced his candidacy in the recall election for governor in California. This was even before he had clarified his position on any of the issues. Why do you

suppose so many voters were excited about the possibility of him becoming governor without knowing his beliefs?

4. List five other celebrities that you feel would be effective politicians. What qualities do they possess that makes you think they would be successful?
5. Although Arnold Schwarzenegger is a Republican, his wife, Maria Shriver, is the daughter of John F. Kennedy's sister. The Kennedy family has been widely successful representing the Democrats throughout history. Do you think his experience in being related to Democrats would be an asset for him to work more effectively with Democratic politicians? Explain.
6. Arnold Schwarzenegger often plays the role of a muscular action hero in his movies that can quickly resolve conflict. He has also played comic roles that included being cast as Danny Devito's twin brother. Before becoming an actor, he was a championship body builder. Do you think his ability to resolve conflict, his sense of humor, or his muscular physique will be the most beneficial in politics? Why?
7. Interview two adults and read one source to determine Ronald Reagan's appeal and accomplishments as a President. What was it about Ronald Reagan that made him popular with many citizens?

Government
*Government Spending: The Expense Of A
War*

Name _____
Date _____
Period _____

Introduction:

The presence of weapons of mass destruction and the threat of biological terrorism posed by Iraq made it necessary to attack the Iraqis. This is the premise that our American government has led us to believe. As a result, billions of dollars were spent and many American lives were lost in the name of this cause.

To date no evidence has been found to support the idea that Iraqis had weapons of mass destruction. Some people suspect the war had much more to do with oil and improving our economy than protecting us from terrorism. Were we fighting to protect us from terrorists or to bring us the riches of the Iraqi oil fields? We will analyze these issues and other important issues in the questions below.

Directions:

Answer the following questions within a group and be prepared to discuss them with the rest of the class.

1. Rank the following from most to least plausible reasons that you feel America fought in the Iraqi War:

- ___ Iraqi violation of Persian Gulf Peace Treaty
- ___ George W. Bush getting revenge for his father
- ___ Iraqi possession of weapons of mass destruction and chemical warfare
- ___ American companies making huge profits from oil and rebuilding Iraq
- ___ Freeing the Iraqi people from the persecution of Saddam Hussein
- ___ The possible connection between Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden
- ___ Protecting us from the possible sources of terrorism that caused 9/11
- ___ An attempt to create more pro-American and Israel allies in the Mideast
- ___ To distract Americans from focusing on the poor condition of the U.S. economy
- ___ Other _____

2. Billions of dollars has been spent fighting the war with Iraq. Supposedly the war was fought to protect us from terrorism. Some people are asking why we didn't put this money towards fighting the terrorism of gang violence in America. Is this a valid question? Explain.
3. After securing Baghdad, America spent much effort to prevent Iraq from burning their oil fields. We have been criticized for not protecting the museums housing artifacts from the time of Christ and earlier. Is this evidence that oil is our primary interest? Explain.
4. Many Americans have been criticized for being against the Iraqi War. These same people say they support our troops. Is it possible to be against the war but support the troops? Explain.
5. Demonstrators that support the war usually display their patriotism by waving the flag. Are those that speak out against the war disloyal and anti-American? Explain.
6. Would you say you feel more or less pride in our country since the war with Iraq? Why?
7. People are concerned that we have not found weapons of mass destruction or evidence of chemicals that could be used in warfare. Do you think finding this evidence is important to showing we were right in going to war with Iraq? Explain.

Government
Propaganda Techniques

Name _____
Date _____
Period _____

Introduction:

Propaganda is a term that has negative connotations. It was commonly used in Hitler's Germany to get his people to go along with his evil scheme. It is a technique of persuasion aimed at influencing individual or group behaviors. Today people tend to think of propaganda as a form of lying and deception.

There are several propaganda techniques and they are most commonly used in commercials or in speeches made by politicians. The following are the most widely used propaganda techniques:

Plain Folks – Pretend to be one of the common people

Bandwagon – Follow the crowd, be with the majority

Name Calling – Don't discuss the facts, just give the opposition a bad name.

Glittering Generalities – Broad and vague statements

Transfer – Use symbols to accomplish purposes for which they were not intended

Testimonial – Endorsement by a celebrity

Card Stacking – present only one side of an issue through the distortion and juggling of facts

Directions:

Read the examples within a group and determine which propaganda techniques are being used. Answer the conclusions that follow and be prepared to perform an effective commercial in front of the class.

1. _____ A candidate goes to a park and shoots baskets with a group of youngsters.
2. _____ "Any one who doesn't support the invasion of Iraq is a Communist."
3. _____ "We are keeping the information about the invasions secret in the interest of national security."
4. _____ LeBron James is shown endorsing Nike shoes hoping you will buy the product because of him.

5. _____ A commercial claims you should drive a BMW because you will show class, style, and enjoy the luxury failing to mention the expensive purchase price and maintenance bills.
6. _____ A commercial shows a herd of elephants going to a car dealership because they don't want to miss the good deals.
7. _____ A politician is shown during a commercial standing next to an American flag.

Conclusions:

1. Commercials are becoming more and more entertaining. Do you think humorous commercials are just entertaining or are they more successful in selling a point of view? Explain.
2. Nike experimented with "street ball" basketball players endorsing products instead of super star players. Some were shown doing a combination of dribbling and dancing. Do you think these will be effective in selling their basketball shoes? Why?
3. Teenage basketball sensation, Lebron James, has been paid 90 million dollars by Nike to endorse their basketball shoes. Will a player about the same age as the teenagers that buy the product create as many sales as Kobe Bryant? Explain.
4. Which of the propaganda techniques are most effective with selling products to teenagers? Why?
5. Write a commercial utilizing humor or any of the propaganda techniques and be prepared to perform it in front of the class.

Government
*Homelessness: Is This An Embarrassment
To Americans*

Name _____
Date _____
Period _____

Introduction:

At one time the federal government built a large amount of low cost housing. As a result, there was virtually no homeless problem in the United States. Today that is no longer the case. Homelessness is a growing problem that can often result in a criminal prosecution. Most cities are not sympathetic to this problem and have enacted laws to remove the homeless from their neighborhoods. It is widely believed that most Americans do not have enough time for their own problems let alone worry about the needs of the homeless. Are most Americans insensitive to this problem or do they feel embarrassment for neglecting these citizens? We will investigate this topic in the questions below.

Directions:

Answer the following questions within a group and be prepared to discuss them with the rest of the class.

1. The minimum hourly wage provides less than half of what a renter needs to afford a standard two-bedroom apartment. Even if a person does have a job, they may not have enough for a home. What is your reaction to this situation?
2. Although George W. Bush campaigned for President with a theme of "compassionate conservatism," the democrats are widely believed to be the more sympathetic to the needy. Despite this belief, Bill Clinton and his democratic administration did little to reduce the homeless population. Do you think the government has an obligation to reduce the problem? Why?
3. A former U.C.L.A. football star is now a frequent panhandler in Pasadena, California and is also homeless. If you were the athletic director or president of

that university, would you feel any obligation to help him out of this condition? Why?

4. A famous celebrity once said that “the best thing I can do for the homeless is to not become one of them.” Is that an insensitive remark or a wise comment? Explain.
5. The vast majority of homeless are people that wasted their time in school and are lazy. They deserve the consequences of their actions. Do you agree? Explain.
6. Some Americans find it very embarrassing that, in a country as wealthy as ours, we have such a significant number of homeless people. Do you feel this is an embarrassment for our country? Explain.
7. If you walked by a homeless person that was panhandling for money, do you think you would give him/her some money? Why?
8. Imagining your group has been selected by the President to come up with a plausible idea to reduce the homeless problem. What plan or idea would you suggest? Explain.

Government
The Bureaucracy

Name _____
Date _____
Period _____

Introduction:

The bureaucracy is made up of all the agencies and bureaus that help the President enforce the laws of the United States. The F.B.I., C.I.A., I.R.S., O.S.H.A., and many other agencies assist the President in assuring the protection of American citizens.

Today there are issues related to enforcement of laws that are controversial. We will investigate this topic in the questions below.

Directions:

Answer the following questions within a group and be prepared to discuss them with the rest of the class.

1. President Bush wants to reduce the size of the bureaucracy and turn over about 800,000 federal jobs to private business. He thinks this will reduce the cost to taxpayers and the business world is more efficient. Do you agree? Explain.
2. O.S.H.A. is an agency that protects workers and consumers from dangerous work sites. In recent years, Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm have had deaths occur on their rides. Do you think O.S.H.A. should force the amusement parks to have higher standards for safety and for their rides? Explain.
3. President Bush wants the California Environmental Protection Agency to relax their standards for car emissions to benefit the car manufacturers. This would possibly reduce the cost of the car but increase smog. Which would you prioritize? Why?

4. An additional 49,000 taxpayers will be audited by the I.R.S. this year. They want to catch more citizens that cheat on their taxes. Based on all the services that the government provides, do you think the government is “ripping off” the taxpayers or the taxpayers are “ripping off” the government? Explain.
5. The F.D.A. protects us from dangerous food and drugs. Experimental drugs that fight cancer and medical marijuana have been banned in the United States. Do you think our government is too finicky or they are just trying to protect us from dangerous drugs? Explain.
6. President Bush has created an executive department called The Homeland Security Department. Do you think the added expense and effort will provide more efficiency and effectiveness than the C.I.A., F.B.I., and other agencies designated to protect our national security? Explain.
7. Do you think we should create an agency that could fight the causes for the high demand for drugs in our country? Explain.

Introduction:

A growing movement in America is fighting for animal rights and their humane treatment. Since our country's inception, Americans have relied heavily on animals for transportation, clothing, food, shelter, and many other necessities.

There is a somewhat extreme faction of our electorate that believes any killing of animals is unnecessary. While significant numbers are moved to protest the use of animals for furs and experimentation, most Americans still support that the consumption of the meat of various animals is essential for good health. Over the years custom dictates to us that turkeys, chickens and cows are acceptable to eat while horses and dogs are not. On the other hand, some cultures in Europe and Asia believe that dog and horsemeat are delicacies that make a delectable dinner entre.

Efforts have been made to outlaw companies from selling the meat of horses to Europe for human consumption. Is this something that should be prevented in a free society? We will investigate this topic in the questions below.

Directions:

Answer the following questions in groups and be prepared to discuss them with the rest of the class.

1. Tradition dictates many of our preferences for food. Although many people enjoy eating fish, eating a dolphin would be very offensive. If a friend were having appetizers at a party and offered you some fried dolphin, would you eat it? Why?
2. French restaurant owners serve large amounts of horse to their patrons. If you were vacationing in France and a restaurant served horse, would you consider trying it? Why?

3. Efforts are being made to prevent businesses from selling horsemeat to France for human consumption. Restaurant owners pay a large amount of money to get this meat. Do you think our government should take a laissez faire approach and allow these business owners to continue selling horsemeat to the French? Explain.
4. There are animal rights activists who believe that eating any animals or wearing their furs is absolutely wrong. What would you tell one of the activists to defend consumption of meat from cattle or pigs?
5. There are authorities that claim that if we knew exactly what was in a hot dog, we would not want to eat it. Do you think awareness of what was in hot dogs might stop you from continuing to eat them? Explain.
6. A popular bumper sticker poked fun at animal rights activists with the expression, "I love animals, they taste good." Do you see this comment as insensitive? Explain.

Government
Poverty In America

Name _____
Date _____

Introduction:

In 1995, 36.4 million people in the United States, 13.8% of the total population, were living in poverty. In a democratic and capitalistic country such as ours, the opportunity to become very rich is combined with the possibility of being poor. With all the opportunities for financial success in this country, how can it be that such a significant amount of people are poor? Should the government be more involved in seeing that more citizens enjoy the good life? We will examine this topic in the questions below.

Directions:

Answer the following questions within a group and be prepared to discuss them with the rest of the class.

1. List five reasons why we have such a significant amount of poverty in a country that offers so much opportunity for financial success.
2. At one time people could open a shop for videos, doughnuts, coffee, or books and make a good profit. Now large corporations like Blockbuster, Krispy Kreme, Starbucks, and Barnes and Noble make it very difficult for people to start a small business. Should there be anything done by our government to help the "little guy?" Explain.
3. Although we normally assume the poor are people that are those that are unemployed or low paid, it can also result from unwise investments. List three investments you would consider safe and three you would consider risky or unwise?

4. It is often said there is a feminization of poverty in this country. This results not only from teenage pregnancies but also the high divorce rate. Women tend to have much less income after they divorce. List three precautions women need to take in order to reduce their chances of living in poverty.
5. High schools today are increasing academic requirements believing this is a steppingstone to greater income. This is being done while reducing shop classes and other vocational education training. Do you think this emphasis will reduce poverty eventually? Explain.
6. A new group of unemployed people has evolved in recent years. The downsizing that is so common has led to a large number of college-educated that are out of work. If you were in this situation, would you be willing to work as a bus driver, waiting tables, or another profession below your capabilities for the time being? Explain.
7. A college educated and very capable worker in a company was fired for taking too many sick days during her first three months on the job. All of the six days she took off were legitimate due to personal necessity or her daughter's illnesses. The government's unemployment office rejected her application for unemployment payments agreeing that she took too many sick days. In this instance, do you see this as insensitivity on the part of the business and the government or irresponsibility on the part of the employee? Explain.

Government
Gun Control vs. The Right to Bear Arms

Name _____
Date _____
Period _____

Introduction:

One of the rights guaranteed in our constitution is the right to bear arms. People that have permits are allowed to have weapons at home. In the days of the Old West, many Americans had a six-shooter and holster on their hip at all times. Too many hasty decisions ended in death for many people and changes on the possession of weapons have been enacted. Recent shootings at schools such as the Columbine High disaster has brought this issue to the forefront again. We will examine this issue in the questions below.

Directions:

Answer the following questions within a group and be prepared to share your answers with the rest of the class.

1. List three advantages and three disadvantages of allowing Americans to own weapons.
2. It is often reported that accidental shootings have taken place at a home and some one is killed. It is rare to hear about a person who protected himself/herself from an intruder because he had a weapon. Do you feel that the accidents happen much more often or do you think a liberal bias by the media causes them to choose not to report the times when guns are a benefit? Explain.
3. Many Americans, particularly in the Midwest and South, enjoy hunting animals. They use their rifles to hunt the animals and often display the heads of their conquests as “trophy” in their family rooms. Some people find this to be offensive. What are your feelings about hunting animals for sport?

4. it is often said that if we outlaw guns, only the criminals will them. Do you feel this is true? Explain.
5. Do you feel it would be safer or more dangerous if people were allowed to carry a gun and holster as in the days of the Old West? Explain.
6. When you have your own home and possibly a family, will you keep a gun your home? Why?

Government
Football Training: Is It Too Intense?

Name _____
Date _____
Period _____

Introduction:

Over the years, football has surpassed baseball as America's favorite sport. Our culture has filled autumn weekends with an emphasis on this game. Friday nights are set aside for local high school football, Saturday's are reserved for college football, and Sunday's are the domain of pro football. The popularity is so great that pro football added a special Monday night game and the colleges added a Thursday night game.

People that attend these games arrive early and have what is called a "tailgate party." They get to the parking lot about three hours early and have a huge picnic. Those that watch the games on T.V. often go to bars or taverns to enjoy the game with a festive group.

Some people believe that the desire for player's to excel and coach's to win has pushed preparation to ridiculous limits. Deaths involved in training to pro football player, Korey Stringer, and college player, Rasheedi Wheeler, have led to an investigation of training methods. In one recent football season, eighteen players lost their lives while playing or training for football. Does the government need to be more restrictive in this area? We will investigate this topic in the questions below.

Directions:

Answer the following questions within groups and be prepared to discuss them with the rest of the class.

1. Korey Stringer was a pro football player for the Minnesota Vikings who weighed 335 pounds. His large weight was a factor in his death. This was because his huge muscle mass created more heat in his body while exercising. Do you feel conditioning should be lessened for the heavier players. Why?
2. In the previous question, it was mentioned that Korey Stringer weighed 335 pounds. At one time, linemen weighed about 250 pounds. The size and

strength of players has increased in all sports. Do you think the increase in size and strength makes them more effective? Explain.

3. Rasheedi Wheeler, a defensive back for the University of Northwestern, died during training exercises. It was a very hot and humid day. He died in the midst of running a large number of wind sprints. Given the frequent breaks that take place as well as the two-platoon system, do you think the training regime was too extreme? Explain.
4. Wheeler was found to have a performance-enhancing drug in his bloodstream. Ephedrine, creatine, and steroids among other substances are commonly ingested to increase performance. Why do you suppose these athletes risk serious injury and possible death to become bigger and faster?
5. During the summer of 2001, numerous deaths took place involving young athletes who were training for football. In all the instances, excessive heat played a factor in the deaths. It seemed that all deaths could have been prevented. Would you tend to blame the coaches, the athletes, or a society that puts so much emphasis on football and winning? Why?
6. At one time the government of the U.s. was going to end football because it was too dangerous. As a result, the rules of the game were changed to try to protect the players. Do you think it is time again for the government to make laws to regulate the game of football? Why?