FRQ Writing Guide-AP Government

1. You have 25 minutes for each FRQ (4 FRQ’s 100 minutes)

2. Read the entire question before beginning to write on the topic.

3. Underline operative words (list, define, identify, describe, and explain) It is VERY common to have more than one operative word in a question.

4. HIT THEM WITH A BRICK!!! DON’T DANCE AROUND THE QUESTION. Answer the prompt (AP).

5. Length guidelines:

* List: bullet points
* Define: 1 to 2 sentences
* Identify: 1 to 2 sentences
* Describe: Paragraph with examples
* Explain: Paragraph with examples
* Compare/Contrast: Paragraph with examples

6. Use examples that link back to the question.

7. Use solid sentence structure to build credibility with the reader.

8. Use the vocabulary that you have been introduced to in the class. When you use vocabulary terms be absolutely certain that you explain those terms as you are writing.

9. Assume the reader is stupid!! Reader will not assume anything or interpret anything for you. A 5th grader should be able to understand your writing.

10. Separate your writing and SKIP lines between sections. Label what section you are working on.

11. Answer all parts of the question.

12. NO Double Dipping. Liberal pro-choice; Conservative pro-life.

13. Use parts of the question for your introductory sentence for each section.

14. Avoid Pronouns such as he, them, and us. Replace them with voters, candidates, President, Senators and Congressman or constituents.