Lieberum - APUSH

Greatest President Position Paper

In 2015, the American Political Science Association published the results of a survey to determine a comprehensive ranking of U.S. presidents from best to worst. 162 scholars from the American Political Science Association’s Presidents and Executive Politics section participated in the survey. Here’s how the top five rounded out:

1. Abraham Lincoln

2. George Washington

3. Franklin D. Roosevelt

4. Theodore Roosevelt

5. Thomas Jefferson

The bottom five presidents are as follows:

40. William Henry Harrison

41. Franklin Pierce

42. Andrew Johnson

43. Warren G. Harding

44. James Buchanan

Write a position paper considering the following:

* Do you agree with the choice to label Abraham Lincoln as the “best” president of all time? Do you think that perhaps one of the other top five should have been ranked over him? Are there any presidents that you feel should have made the top five over one or more of the others? What qualities make a “great president” great? Are any of the top five presidents “overrated” in your eyes?
* Do you agree with the choice to label James Buchanan as the “worst” president of all time? Do you think that any of the other bottom five should have been ranked below him? Are there any presidents that you feel should have made the bottom five over one or more of the others? What makes a “bad president” bad? Are any of the bottom five presidents “underrated” in your eyes?

\*\*\*Note: You are to be as apolitical as possible. I’m looking for well developed opinions with historical evidence to back them up, NOT an exploration into the merits/limits of conservatism vs. liberalism\*\*\*

This paper should be three to five pages in length. - typed, double-spaced, with 12 pt. Times New Roman font. Use a standard MLA style heading and title WITHOUT huge spaces (\*cough\* Grayson \*cough\*). Spelling and grammar **will be** considered in your grade.

The assignment will be due on: Wednesday, June 8th

\*\*\*If you will not be in school on Wednesday, June 8th, it is YOUR responsibility to get the paper to me before then!\*\*\*

This will be a **Test Grade.**

**I will use the standard 0-10 grading system on this paper.**

**The 8-10 essay:**

* addresses the topic thoroughly
* presents an effective analysis of the topic
* has few to no grammatical and/or spelling errors
* is clearly written and well organized
* uses plenty of historical evidence (with specific examples) to support stated positions and is apolitical in nature

**The 5-7 essay:**

* addresses most of the topic, but could be more thorough
* presents a limited analysis of the topic
* has some grammatical and/or spelling errors
* shows evidence of acceptable organization and language errors do not interfere with comprehension
* uses some historical evidence (with specific examples) to support stated positions and may have some political bias

**The 2-4 essay:**

* addresses some of the topic, but is not thorough
* presents little to no analysis of the topic
* has a significant number of grammatical and/or spelling errors
* is not well organized and language errors interfere with comprehension
* uses little to no historical evidence to support stated positions and is based mostly on political opinion

**The 0-1 essay:**

* is completely off topic
* presents no analysis of the topic
* has a significant number of grammatical and/or spelling errors
* has no organization and cannot be comprehended
* uses no historical evidence to support stated positions and is purely based on political opinion