



THE KNOX SCHOOL

U.S. Government & Civics Grade 12 **Winter Break Assignments 2020-21**

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***** Please reach out for help via email/to Zoom ahead of deadlines!**

DEADLINE: 11 JANUARY 2021, start of class via Google Classroom.

ANY LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL LOSE 10% PER DAY.

Executive Power: Too Much or Just Enough?

These activities will provide background knowledge into Executive Power using Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) order as a current example.

Students will be required to:

- 1) Write a letter to the new President Elect (Joe Biden) of the United States; and**
- 2) Create a political cartoon.**

Counts as an assessment for Semester II out of 50 pt.

Before you write your letter and design your political cartoon, you must visit each link listed below. **Watch videos carefully and take notes.** Read the content slowly and re-read of anything is confusing the first time around. Keep in mind that your goal is to form an opinion about the extent of Executive Power as well as your position on whether to keep DACA or rescind DACA.

TAKE NOTES ON EACH FOR CREDIT:

Capitol Hill Cold Open- Saturday Night Live available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUDSeb2zHQ0>

What's an executive order? CBC News Explainer available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Us8WluMJMU>

Executive Orders 101: What are they and how do presidents use them? The National Constitution Center, January 23, 2017. Available online at <https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/executiveorders-101-what-are-they-and-how-do-presidents-use-them>

Gosar, Paul. Roll Back DACA USA Today, September 5, 2017. Available online at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2017/09/05/paul-gosar-roll-back-daca-editorialsdebates/105303938/>

Editorial Board. Trump's DACA Reversal Won't Only Hurt Dreamers USA Today. September 5, 2017. Available online at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2017/09/05/trump-daca-reversal-wont-hurt-just-dreamers-editorials-debates/634739001/>

Editorial Board. President Trump, Leave DACA Alone. USA Today. August 31, 2017. Available online at

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2017/08/31/president-trump-leave-dacaalone-editorials-debates/613855001/>

Paxton, Ken. Donald Trump should keep his promise to dump DACA. USA Today. July 26, 2017. Available online at

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2017/07/26/trump-not-king-wemust-phase-out-daca-and-return-rule-law-column/488732001/>

Executive Orders, Civics 101 Podcast. New Hampshire Public Radio, February 13, 2017. Available online at

<https://www.civics101podcast.org/civics-101-episodes/ep7>

The Constitution Project by PJ Productions. “Key Constitutional Concepts-Checks and Balances” hosted by the Annenberg Foundation and Trust at Sunnylands. Available at

<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/page/key-constitutional-concepts>

1. After carefully studying the information located in the links above, **write a letter to the President of the United States.**

This letter should tell the President:

- A) how you feel about Executive Power in general; and
- B) why you support DACA or why you think it should be thrown out.

500 word minimum (not repetitive) with proper spelling and grammar, with sufficient facts and evidence from the resources above (CITE WHERE NECESSARY).

Information about contacting the President is located at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/get-involved/write-or-call/>

Letter formatting:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject_specific_writing/professional_technical_writing/basic_business_letters/index.html

Be sure to submit this letter in Google Classroom after you send it.

2. After writing the letter:

Visit <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/analyzing-political-cartoons> and <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/cartoonamerica/cartoon-political.html> to help you think about a political cartoon that captures the essence of your letter to the President.

Design your political cartoon and submit as an image file.

The score on the cartoon will be graded on how well the image lets the reader know how well it captures the essence of your feelings about DACA in your letter to the President - not on artistic ability.