At Herricks High School, all Participation in Government courses culminate with a Participation in Government (PiG) project, which includes a research paper, a civic action project or community service and an understanding of school budgets. All parts of these assignments MUST be successfully completed in order to meet state and district requirements for graduation.

**PiG Paper**

Required Tasks: Each of the following tasks must be submitted before handing in the final paper. Your teacher will determine the format for each task. You must submit all tasks to turnitin.com. Any plagiarized paper or task assignment will receive a grade of zero. Any plagiarized paper results in an automatic failure of the course. All students are expected to adhere to the Herricks High School Honor Code.

**Pre-Tasks**
1. Identify a GENERAL controversial topic of interest (ie. Gun Control, Abortion, Immigration)
2. Identify a SPECIFIC bill, court case, or ballot initiative that is currently being debated related to your general topic.
3. Identify the level and branch of government where the policy is being debated.
4. Submit 2 CURRENT articles (links) discussing your specific topic in a particular location of the country.

**Task 1: Background & Overall Issue/Controversy**
1. Provide background information on your specific policy.
   * What is the OVERALL controversial topic? (ie. Gun Control, Abortion, Immigration)
   * Introduce the SPECIFIC bill, court case, or ballot initiative that you will be researching.
   * Who started advocating for change? When? Why? How?
   * At what stage is your topic currently?
   * What government body is being asked to address this change?
2. Positions on the issue.
   * What are two perspectives (SIDES) of this issue?
   * Identify two interest groups (one on each side) who are involved with influencing your specific policy and list one action taken by each group.
3. Include a properly formatted bibliography and internal citations for your information (Noodletools).

**Task 2: Organizations**
1. Organizations:
   * Identify at least 2 organizations that have been working to influence your specific topic (one on each side). Explain why these organizations care and how the policy is related to their overall mission.
2. For each organization you should:
   * Research the specific actions each group has taken to influence your specific public policy (ie. lobbying, amicus briefs, petitions, rallies, posts, etc.).
   * Identify, to the extent possible, the resources (money, manpower, social media presence, celebrity endorsement, etc.) each organization has.
*Research and describe the goals and future plans each organization has to influence the specific public policy.

*How effective has each group been so far?*

*NOTE: Students are encouraged to personally contact a member of one organization, or an expert in the field of their specific public policy. If an interview is conducted, it must be properly cited.*

3. Include a properly formatted bibliography and internal citations for your information.

**Task 3: Trends and Government Action**

1. Recent social and political trends:
   *Political:* What has been the outcome of other/similar recent bills, lawsuits, or ballot initiatives regarding this policy?
   *Social:* What citizen-driven movements, and/or current events, such as marches, walk-outs, social media campaigns, petitions, etc. have occurred related to this policy?
   *Analysis:* How does the debate over your specific public policy reflect larger political and social trends? How will these recent political and social trends likely impact the outcome of your specific public policy?

2. Government Action
   *Identify the branch and level of government involved with your specific policy.*
   *What specific steps has the government taken in review of the policy?*
   *What further steps would be necessary for your policy to be resolved?*

3. Include a properly formatted bibliography and internal citations for your information.

**Final Paper Submission:** Combine all three tasks into one cohesive and analytical research paper, adding a conclusion that evaluates your specific topic; its chances of becoming policy and if this policy will be beneficial to the people. Include a properly formatted bibliography and internal citations for all your information, and turn the paper into turnitin.com. A grading rubric will be provided by your teacher to clarify the expectations.