AP Government

*12 Angry Men* Assignment

**Due: November 30, 2017**

**“Which is Fairer: Judge or Jury Trials?”**

You will write a 3-page argumentative essay on “Judge v Jury” trials. You will base your argument on the “Trial By Jury: An American History” reading, your notes from *12 Angry Men*, the US Constitution (especially Article III and the Bill of Rights/amendments), and 1 additional reputable source. Your essay should be double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, with 1-inch margins.

You will also include a bibliography. Your citations and bibliography should be in MLA or Chicago style.

**Organization Reminder:**

Paragraph 1: Introduction (See back of paper for “How to Write an Introduction”)

Paragraph 2: How “Trial by Jury: An American History” supports your thesis\*

Paragraph 3: How *12 Angry Men* supports your thesis\*

Paragraph 4: How your 1 additional, reputable source support your thesis\*

Paragraph 5: Conclusion

\* You should weave information from the Constitution into 2 of your 3 body paragraphs

INTRODUCTION

A strong paper will be introduced with an encompassing, but narrow, introduction.  The very first sentence of your introduction should alert the reader as to what he is going to read, but should not confuse him.  Therefore, the introduction sentence should not begin:

~~“Since the dawn of time, humans have always….”~~

~~“Society has come a long way since…”~~

“~~A lot of things have changed since…”~~

These are too vague.  Your paper should focus on one specific topic, and not attempt to tackle all of humanity!  There is no formula for that first sentence, but it is better to have a “boring,” factually relevant sentence than an unfounded claim.

The rest of the Introduction sets the background for the thesis statement (more on the Thesis below).  Again, this helps the reader understand what he will be reading in the rest of your paper.  You should answer the following questions:

WHO are the important figures, groups, ect that you will focus on in your paper?

WHERE does your research focus?

WHEN does your research focus?

WHAT are the historical circumstances surrounding this time?

An example could be:

*In the early 1950s, Walt Disney was beginning to feel that animation, although initially magical, was ultimately limited by the 2-D world.  The audience could watch a movie, and feel joy, hope, love, and sorrow at the time, but could never really move past the role of observer.  The movies could not catapult young imaginations into the role of princess or hero.  In the years before his death, he created such a place: Disneyland.  The park has changed in many insignificant ways in the next 30 years, but the overarching dedication to a fantasy-inspired realism remained.*

The end of this paragraph leads seamlessly into the most important part of your paper: the thesis statement.

THESIS  
A strong paper will have a thesis statement that answers that final question.  The thesis statement, placed as the final sentence of your introduction should read, at the most basic level, like this:

“By examining (object1), (object 2), and (object 3) of the (your culture group) in the (time and place), historians can better understand how the [your observation that ties all 3 objects together].  Therefore, [Significance /”So What?”].”

An example could be:

“*By examining the architecture of the Cinderella Castle, the costumes of Mickey Mouse,*

*and the cold-water-only water fountains of the Walt Disneyland theme park of Anaheim,*

*California in the 1990s, historians can better understand that the original Disney engineers took*

*into account every human sense when trying to create a substantial, if fleeting, escapist fantasy*

*world for their guests*.  *This era corresponded with financial success for the company and therefore the presence of similar objects should correlate with success for family-centric theme parks.”*

The rest of the paper should make every effort to prove that point.