GOVT 2305 Research Paper Requirements and Grading

Criteria	Points Value
Formatting: This paper must be done in MLA (Modern Language Association) format. Use 12 inch font, Times New Roman, one inch margins, and double spaced. Formatting includes using proper citation and a Bibliography/ Work Cited page. Although you will not receive points for following the formatting requirements, students will be heavily penalized (up to 30 points) for not following them. Details and directions on MLA formatting: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/	
Introduction Select a United States political issue and briefly describe the issue and what the different viewpoints are. For example, the topic could be legalization of marijuana in the United States and the viewpoints are some are for and some are against it. Length: minimum of 50 words	10
Content Research the topic and compare and contrast the different viewpoints and positions on your topic. Fully address the different sides of the issue and demonstrate an understanding of its complexities. Length: minimum of 500 words	50
Personal Conclusion Draw a personal conclusion based on your analysis of the issue and present an informed evaluation from the evidence. Length: minimum of 250 words	25
Resources: At least three professional sources such as books, journals, magazines, or websites. Choose resources that are professional and scholarly. 2 must be peer-reviewed. You must include a Bibliography/ Work Cited page. Avoid plagiarism by properly citing resources as used throughout your paper. Refer to MLA formatting rules for details.	15
*There will be a 2 point deduction for every grammatical error or misspelled word. Use proper paragraphing and improve your writing style by revising the paper as many times as necessary.	
*Late papers: 10 points will be deducted every day your paper is late.	
Total:	100

 Special note you must submit your research paper as a Microsoft Office Word document and it must be an original paper. That means you cannot recycle another paper from a previous class. If you fail to follow these rules then I will give you a zero for your research paper.