

**SOURCE-BASED OPINION PAPER RUBRIC: PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT****Level 4**

- Contains an insightful, well developed **introduction** paragraph that establishes the area of focus & clearly indicates what the student plans to argue.
- Incorporates more than half of the **supporting sources** in highly insightful ways. Quotes from sources are integrated into the paper with balance & a high level of overall understanding. A proper **method of citation** is used.
- Presents detailed and sophisticated **analysis**—in the student’s own words—of the main aspects of the question. Arguments are clear, insightful, and relate well to the argument.
- Is very clearly **organized** and extremely well written. Very few errors in **mechanics** or facts. Meets all of the **formatting** guidelines.

**Level 3**

- Contains a basic **introduction** paragraph that addresses the area of focus and indicates what the student plans to argue.
- Essay demonstrates a solid understanding and use of at least half of the **supporting sources**. Some quotes are used to support the student’s argument, though this evidence may be uneven in a few places. A proper **method of citation** is used.
- Has strong **analysis** of some aspects of the question, though the student has not successfully explored all areas in sufficient depth.
- Has strong **organization** and writing. May contain a few errors in **mechanics** that do not seriously detract from the paper. Meets of all of the **formatting** guidelines.

**Level 2**

- Contains an **introduction** that addresses the topic in a confused or limited manner. It may not be clear where the student plans to focus his/her attention.
- Makes limited use of the **supporting sources**. The student’s analysis is rarely backed up by textual evidence, or it may be clear that the source has been misunderstood. May lack a **method of citation**.
- Generally fails to explore the ‘how’ and ‘why’ aspects of the question, lacking **analysis**. May rely almost entirely on the supporting sources, without any of the student’s own structure, commentary, or insights.
- Has significant problems in **organization** and may contain major errors in **mechanics**. The logic of the student’s arguments may be seriously flawed. May fail to follow the **formatting** guidelines.

**Level 1**

- Lacks an **introduction** paragraph or contains an introduction that does not relate to the topic.
- Fails to make use of **supporting sources**. Evidence of the student’s comprehension of the source readings may be completely absent. May lack a **method of citation**.
- Arguments do not clearly relate to the issues of the question. Little or no **analysis** is evident. Statements are very general or vague.
- Problems in **organization** and **mechanics** severely inhibit understanding. May fail to follow the **formatting** guidelines.

**SCORING:**

4 = 93-100

3.5 = 87-92

3 = 80-86

2.5 = 75-79

2 = 70-74

1.5 = 65-69

1 = 0-64%