

# U.S. GOVERNMENT OBSERVATIONS

As you know, a large portion of your Government grade (150 points) is based on your participation in this project. In order to complete it, you will need to participate in/observe a minimum of 4 hours of some type of political/government activity (see examples given on separate sheet – any others should be cleared with the teacher ahead of time). **These hours may not be done during school time** – it is not a substitute for going to class. All activities must be done during the academic school year.

## Requirements for 4 hours of observation

1. **Signature Log:** You must take your signature log with you to all the events and get the supervisor/tour guide, etc. to sign it at the end of your visit. They must fill out the log in ink – including time begun and ended. **Any altered forms will not be accepted!**  
  
\*keep a separate log for Government Observation and Community Service hours.  
\*no photocopies!
2. You must show **proof of your attendance/cognitive state** at these various functions. Examples would be to get a copy of the agenda of a council meeting or pictures of you in front of the Capitol.
3. You must take notes during the hearing/meeting/tour (note the date and time at the top) and keep them to be turned in after the 4 hours are completed (This is **required**, not optional). Do not recopy or be concerned about neatness – they are notes.
4. You may only do 2 hours at one type of government activity. That means you cannot go to both a City Council meeting and a city Planning Commission meeting. They must be 2 completely different types of activities.
5. This project cannot be turned in past the due date! **NO EXCEPTIONS!** If you are sick or for any other reason you cannot make it to school on the day the project is due, have someone else deliver it.

## **Parents may not act as the supervisor for their student.**

6. At the end of the hours, you will prepare a report with the following information, computer generated!
  - I. Title Page
  - II. Table of Contents
  - III. Write-up:  
write a 2-3 page (minimum of 2 complete pages) **reflective essay** about the experience, including:
    - A. summary of the things you did
    - B. your impression of the experience (good, bad, informative, accomplished what they are suppose to or not, etc.)
    - C. 3 references to specific things you have learned in Government
  - IV. Supplemental Material
    - A. log of hours (obtain from teacher)
    - B. proof of work – agendas, pictures, pamphlets, handouts, etc.
    - C. notes that you took during the meeting/tour
5. The project must be secured into a folding metal tabs folder in the order given above! No binders!