

**Mid-Term Research Project: Fall 2009 – US Government
“The Constitution and Torture”**

**Final Due Date: (last day to turn in at full credit – late work reduced one letter grade):
Friday, October 30, 2009.**

Question: The question of how to fight the global war on terror has revived some complex questions that involve the balancing of liberty and human rights versus the desire for safety and national security. Does our Constitution provide any guide on the question of whether it is ever appropriate to use *torture* as a method or means in prosecuting this conflict?

**Sample Outline
(But feel free to set this essay up as you wish)**

I. Introduction / Thesis Statement – a brief statement outlining your position or something that you consider relevant about this issue.

II. Body – the bulk of the paper is here, in data taken from readings and other evidence that you have found to support your position.

A. Text DPE – does your textbook say anything about the question of means and ends in this conflict?

B. Government DPE – what position have the relevant branches or agencies of the Federal government (Executive, Legislative, Judicial) taken on this issue. Are there differences among the various political parties in the US?

C. Critical DPE – are there voices outside the government (particularly within academia) that have contributed something to this debate? (Also, notes from the film *Torturing Democracy* can be used here).

D. Outside (original) DPE – is there other information that you have found on your own that have a unique and/or important position on this question? They can come from any policy perspective.

III. Conclusion – from your reading and research of the various positions, do you feel torture can be constitutionally justified means of fighting against terrorism? Why / why not?

Extras:

1. Make sure to include some form of citation (preferably APA) every time you use a statement or an idea from the readings that I have provided, or that you found in your own independent research. Using other’s work without providing proper citation is plagiarism and grounds for immediate failure on this essay. The bibliographical data can be found at the top of each reading in bold print.

2. Please type all work on a computer.

3. Please provide 2 copies of the essay. One I will keep, the other will be returned to you.

4. An “A” paper will be: a) fully documented and cited; b) a *minimum* of 10 pages in length; c) research *beyond* authors provided; and d) turned in *on time* (10-30-09).