

**Research Project Two: Fall 2009 – US Government / AP
“Democracy and Capitalism”**

**Final Due Date: (last day to turn in at full credit – late work reduced one letter grade):
Friday, December 4, 2009**

Question: Your Wilson textbook tends to downplay the effects of the economic system on politics, mentioning this system (capitalism) at only a few points in the entire text (pp. 79 and 479) suggesting we not “clench our fists and shout probusiness or antibusiness slogans at each other.” It therefore has a somewhat benign description of the relationship between capitalism and democracy. Beginning with an analysis of the text (democratic / bureaucratic theory) position, review some of the *critical interpretations* on the interaction of capitalism and democracy and give your own evaluation as to whether democracy can indeed thrive within a corporate capitalist system.

**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 relevant about this issue.

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

- A. Text DPE – what does the textbook say about whether or not the US can be considered a democracy and how capitalism enhances or distorts this reality (check pages 9, 79, and 479).**
- B. Other Traditional DPE – supporting positions from the pluralist perspective.**
- C. Critical DPE – what do some of the readings say on this issue. You should include but are not limited to the following scholarship: Parenti, Boyer, Alperovitz, Hightower, Street and Kelly.**
- D. Outside DPE – are there other authors that you have examined that have a unique and/or important position on this question. They can come from any theoretical perspective.**

III. Conclusion – from your reading of the various authors and theoretical positions, it is clear that the _____ theory holds the most promise for describing *whom* holds the power and *to what ends* they rule.

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 1 copy of the essay. It will be returned to you.

4. An “A” paper will be: a) fully documented and cited; b) a *minimum* of 8 - 10 pages in length; c) research *beyond* authors provided; and d) turned in *on time* (12-4-09).