

HOW TO WRITE A PERFECT AP U.S. GOVERNMENT FRQ

Defining the Task Verbs:

- **List/Identify:** Write ONE sentence that SIMPLY answers the question.
- **Define:** Write at least TWO sentences:
 - Sentence One must provide the meaning of the concept
 - Sentence Two must include a detailed example (real or hypothetical)
- **Describe:** Write at least TWO sentences:
 - Sentence One must provide the meaning of the concept
 - Sentence Two must include a detailed example (real or hypothetical)
- **Explain:** Write at least THREE sentences:
 - Sentence One should provide the meaning of the concept
 - Sentence Two must provide statements that describe a set of facts and clarify the CAUSES/ EFFECTS or HOW/WHY of those facts as related to the FRQ
 - You should use an “*If...therefore...*” statement to show cause/effect or how/why
 - Sentence Three must include a detailed example (real or hypothetical)
- **Compare:** Write at least THREE sentences:
 - Sentence One should provide the meaning of any concepts identified
 - Sentence Two must explicitly describe the similarities between the concepts
 - Sentence Three must explicitly describe the differences between the concepts

Step 1: Read the prompt 5 times. Try to understand what it's asking.

Step 2: Underline the verbs (identify, describe, define, explain, compare etc.)

Step 3: Underline or identify the number of tasks for each part of the prompt.

Step 4: How many points are you able to earn?

Step 5: Brainstorm

Step 6: Write FRQ