

**AP Government and Politics:  
The Redesigned FRQs  
OCSS—SW Workshop**

David Wolfford

Mariemont High School

[www.usgopo.com](http://www.usgopo.com)

[www.davidwolfford.com](http://www.davidwolfford.com)

[dwolfford@cinci.rr.com](mailto:dwolfford@cinci.rr.com)

FRQ Style #1  
(Released Exam 1)

1. Consumers complained after EpiPen maker Mylan “hiked the price of the emergency auto-injector by \$100 in recent months for no obvious reason. . . . The price has increased 450 percent since 2004, when a dose cost \$100 in today’s dollars, to its current price of more than \$600. . . . The medication itself isn’t expensive. Analysts calculate that the dosage contained in a single pen is worth about \$1.”

*Washington Post, August 23, 2016*

After reading the scenario, respond to A, B, and C below:

- (A) Describe a power Congress could use to address the comments outlined in the scenario.
- (B) In the context of the scenario, explain how the use of congressional power described in Part A can be affected by its interaction with the presidency.
- (C) In the context of the scenario, explain how the interaction between Congress and the presidency can be affected by linkage institutions.

1. The following is from the 2016 Republican Party Platform.

“Because the Federal Reserve’s monetary policy decisions affect job creation, upward mobility for workers, and equitable prosperity, they should be transparent. Similarly, the Federal Reserve’s important role as a lender of last resort should also be carried out in a more transparent manner. The Republican Party will advance legislation that brings transparency and accountability to the Federal Reserve, the Federal Open Market Committee, and the Federal Reserve’s dealing with foreign banks.”

<https://www.gop.com/the-2016-republican-party-platform/>

After reading the scenario, respond to A, B, and C below.

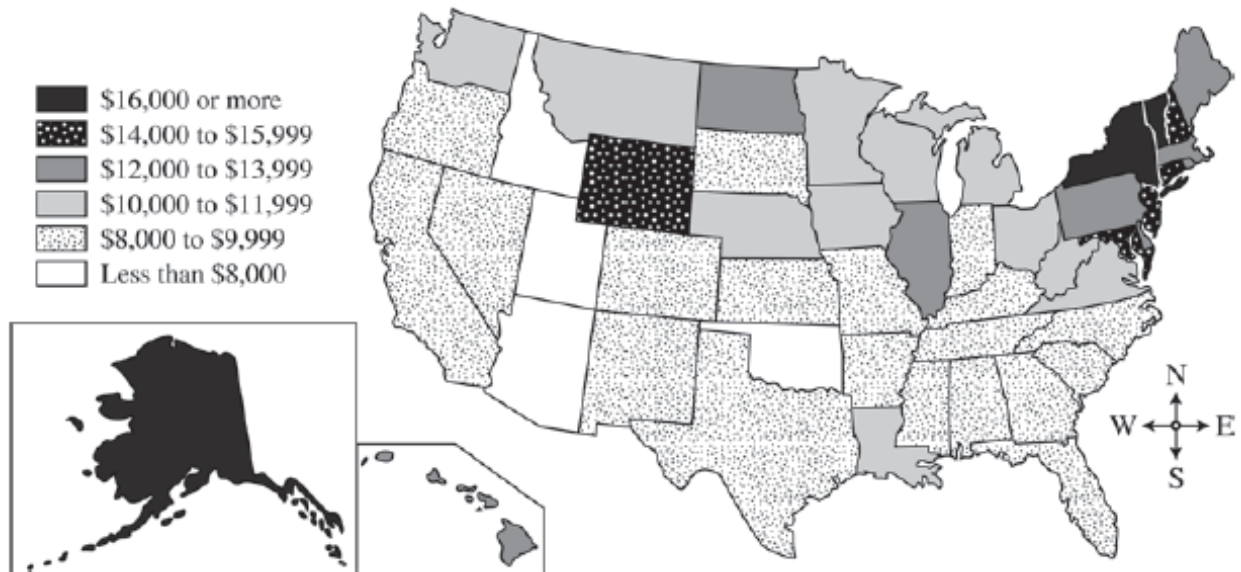
- A. Describe an action, other than advancing legislation, that members of Congress may take to bring transparency and accountability to the Federal Reserve.
- B. In the context of this section of the Republican Party platform, explain how the proposal to increase transparency and accountability described in part A would affect the Federal Reserve’s ability to make economic policy.
- C. Explain how ideological differences between the parties might affect Democratic Party support of the proposal.

### Suggestions from College Board

Students will have to:

- Describe a political institution, behavior, or process in connection with a scenario.
- In the context of the scenario, explain how the response in part A affects a political process, government entity, or citizen behavior.
- Explain how the scenario relates to a political institution, behavior, or process.

PUBLIC EDUCATION SPENDING: AMOUNT SPENT PER PUPIL BY STATE IN 2014



Source: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

2. Use the information graphic to answer the questions.
  - (A) Identify the most common level of education spending by states in the Southeast.
  - (B) Describe a similarity or difference in public education spending by state or region, as illustrated in the information graphic, and draw a conclusion about that similarity or difference.
  - (C) Explain how public education spending as shown in the information graphic demonstrates the principle of federalism.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT APPOINTEES,  
PRESIDENTS JOHNSON TO BUSH**

	Johnson (D)	Nixon (R)	Ford (R)	Carter (D)	Reagan (R)	G. Bush (R)	Clinton (D)	G. W. Bush (R)
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	98.4%	99.4%	98.1%	85.6%	91.7%	80.4%	71.5%	80.3%
Female	1.6%	0.6%	1.9%	14.4%	8.3%	19.6%	28.5%	19.7%
<b>Party</b>								
Democratic	94.3%	7.3%	21.2%	91.1%	4.8%	6.1%	87.5%	6.9%
Republican	5.7%	92.7%	78.8%	4.5%	91.7%	88.5%	6.2%	84.7%
Independent	0%	0%	0%	4.5%	3.4%	5.4%	6.3%	8.4%
<b>Number of Federal District Court Appointees</b>	125	182	50	203	290	148	305	261

Source: UScourts.gov

Use the information graphic above to answer the following questions.

2.
  - A. Describe a trend in presidential nominees to district courts with regard to gender.
  - B. Describe a similarity or difference between Republican and Democratic presidents' nominees to federal district courts with regard to the political party of those they nominate.
  - C. Explain how the similarity or difference affects the judicial decisions of the federal district courts with regard to civil liberties.
  - D. Explain how the number and party affiliation of federal district court appointees affects presidential influence and power.

Suggestions from College Board

Students will have to:

- Identify or describe the data presented in the source
- Describe a pattern, trend or similarity/difference as prompted
- Draw a conclusion based on the analysis of the data (pattern, trend, similarity, difference)
- Explain how \_\_\_\_\_ in the information graphic demonstrates \_\_\_\_\_.

### FRQ Style #3, SCOTUS Comparison

Which of the 15 Required Cases would make good comparisons to these cases? Consider drafting your own FRQ #3 that would include the facts, issue, ruling and rationale and then prompt your students to compare with the best corresponding required case.

*Gibbons v. Ogden*

*Brandenburg v. Ohio*

*Abrams v. United States*

*Planned Parenthood v. Casey*

*McCutcheon v. F.E.C.*

*Heller v. District of Columbia*

*Wesberry v. Sanders*

*Abbington v. Shemp*

*Cooper v. Aaron*

*New York Times v. Sullivan*

### FRQ Style #4

The argumentative essay is ripe for any government class. Consider these topics, and any of the Nine Foundational Documents as you and your students practice for the exam, and consider developing your own FRQs from these topic ideas/positions:

- Death Penalty: Is it Cruel and Unusual?
- Education Should be left to the States
- The War Powers Act is unconstitutional
- Voter ID laws
- A flat or flatter tax is the solution
- Federal regulator agencies and their power/representative democracy
- Electoral College System
- Hate Speech violates First Amendment

Set A

Create Your Own FRQ with selected Text Passages and Data Sets

Simply examine and consider the passage and the quantitative sample, remind yourself of question format (A), (B), (C) etc., and try to draft the prompt. Once you draft the question, consider polishing it to maximize possible student answers. Write the final/best-phrased questions, and a short list of possible answers on the Yellow Sheet.

FRQ #1

The presidency has been in crisis before; but the constitutional offense that led to the impeachment of Andrew Johnson was trivial compared to the charges now accumulating around the Nixon Administration. There are, indeed, constitutional offenses here too—the abuse of impoundment and executive privilege, for example; or the secret air war against Cambodia in 1969-1970, unauthorized by and unknown to Congress; or the prosecution of the war in Vietnam after the repeal of the Tonkin Gulf Resolution; or the air war against Cambodia after the total withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam. But these, like Andrew Johnson's far less consequential defiance of the Tenure of Office Act, are questions that a President may more or less plausibly insist lie within a range of executive discretion. The Johnson case has discredited impeachment as a means of resolving arguable disagreements over the interpretation of the Constitution in advance of final judgment by the Supreme Court.

---Historian Arthur Schlesinger, *The Atlantic Monthly*, 1973

Handwritten lines for student response

FRQ #2

**Congressional Legislation, Five Recent Congresses**

Congress	Enacted Laws	Passed Resolutions	Got A Vote	Failed Legislation	Vetoed Bills (w/o Override)	Other Legislation	TOTAL
<b>115<sup>th</sup></b> Jan 3, 2017 -present	<u>128</u> 1%	<u>424</u> 5%	<u>528</u> 6%	<u>5</u> 0%	<u>0</u> 0%	<u>7,888</u> 88%	<u>8,973</u>
<b>114<sup>th</sup></b> Jan 6, 2015 -Jan 3, 2017	<u>329</u> 3%	<u>708</u> 6%	<u>661</u> 5%	<u>22</u> 0%	<u>9</u> 0%	<u>10,334</u> 86%	<u>12,063</u>
<b>113<sup>th</sup></b> Jan 3, 2013 -Jan 2, 2015	<u>296</u> 3%	<u>663</u> 6%	<u>474</u> 4%	<u>20</u> 0%	<u>0</u> 0%	<u>9,184</u> 86%	<u>10,637</u>
<b>112<sup>th</sup></b> Jan 5, 2011 -Jan 3, 2013	<u>284</u> 2%	<u>722</u> 6%	<u>390</u> 3%	<u>38</u> 0%	<u>0</u> 0%	<u>10,865</u> 88%	<u>12,299</u>
<b>111<sup>th</sup></b> Jan 6, 2009 -Dec 22, 2010	<u>385</u> 3%	<u>1,464</u> 11%	<u>601</u> 4%	<u>31</u> 0%	<u>2</u> 0%	<u>11,192</u> 82%	<u>13,675</u>

Source: Congressional Research Service



**Set B**

**Create Your Own FRQ with selected Text Passages and Data Sets**

*Simply examine and consider the passage and the quantitative sample, remind yourself of question format (A), (B), (C) etc., and try to draft the prompt. Once you draft the question, consider polishing it to maximize possible student answers. Write the final/best-phrased questions, and a short list of possible answers on the Yellow Sheet.*

**FRQ #1**

*To the House of Representatives:*

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 810, the "Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005." Like all Americans, I believe our Nation must vigorously pursue the tremendous possibilities that science offers to cure disease and improve the lives of millions. Yet, as science brings us ever closer to unlocking the secrets of human biology, it also offers temptations to manipulate human life and violate human dignity. Our conscience and history as a Nation demand that we resist this temptation. With the right scientific techniques and the right policies, we can achieve scientific progress while living up to our ethical responsibilities . . . If we are to find the right ways to advance ethical medical research, we must also be willing when necessary to reject the wrong ways. For that reason, I must veto this bill.

---President George W. Bush, Veto Message, July 19, 2006.

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## Desegregation Status in 17 States, D.C. -- Fall 1964

	School Districts			Enrollment		In Desegregated Districts		Negroes In Schools With Whites	
	Total	With Negroes & Whites	Deseg.	White	Negro	White	Negro	No.	%†
Alabama	118	118	8	549,543**	293,476**	152,486**	88,952**	94	.032
Arkansas	412	228	24	333,630**	114,651**	93,072	28,943	930	.811
Florida	67	67	21	1,001,611*	246,215*	812,268*	174,522*	6,524	2.65
Georgia	196	180	11	752,620	354,850	195,598	133,888	1,337	.377
Louisiana	67	67	3	489,000*	321,000*	61,885	86,248	3,581	1.12
Mississippi	150	150	4	308,409**	295,962**	34,620**	21,929**	58	.020
North Carolina	171	171	84	828,638	349,282	548,705	201,394	4,918	1.41
South Carolina	108	108	16	371,921	260,667	156,346	83,608	260	.100
Tennessee	152	141	61	724,327*	173,673*	459,162*	135,001*	9,265*	5.33
Texas	1,380	862	291	2,086,752*	344,312*	1,500,000*	225,000*	25,000*	7.26
Virginia	130	128	81	733,524**	234,176**	585,491	189,046	11,883	5.07
<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>2,951</b>	<b>2,220</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>8,179,975</b>	<b>2,988,264</b>	<b>4,599,633</b>	<b>1,368,531</b>	<b>63,850</b>	<b>2.14</b>

Set C

Create Your Own FRQ with selected Text Passages and Data Sets

Simply examine and consider the passage and the quantitative sample, remind yourself of question format (A), (B), (C) etc., and try to draft the prompt. Once you draft the question, consider polishing it to maximize possible student answers. Write the final/best-phrased questions, and a short list of possible answers on the Yellow Sheet.

FRQ #1

I also recognized that we must have the closest bipartisan cooperation, and this included help from Senator Everett Dirksen (R-IL). On my very first TV appearance—*Meet the Press*—I praised Senator Dirksen, telling the nation that he would help, that he would support a good civil rights bill, that he would put his country above party, that he would look upon this issue as a moral issue and not a partisan issue. I believed it then, and my faith has been vindicated . . . I knew that it was impossible to pass a civil rights bill, because we couldn't possibly get cloture without Dirksen and his help. . . . You may recall that Dirksen was opposed to [parts of the bill] from the beginning . . . by working with him, talking with him day after day, appealing to his sense of patriotism and duty, which I did regularly, I was able to involve Dirksen more directly into this legislation.”

---Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-MN), Memorandum on the Civil Rights Act 1964

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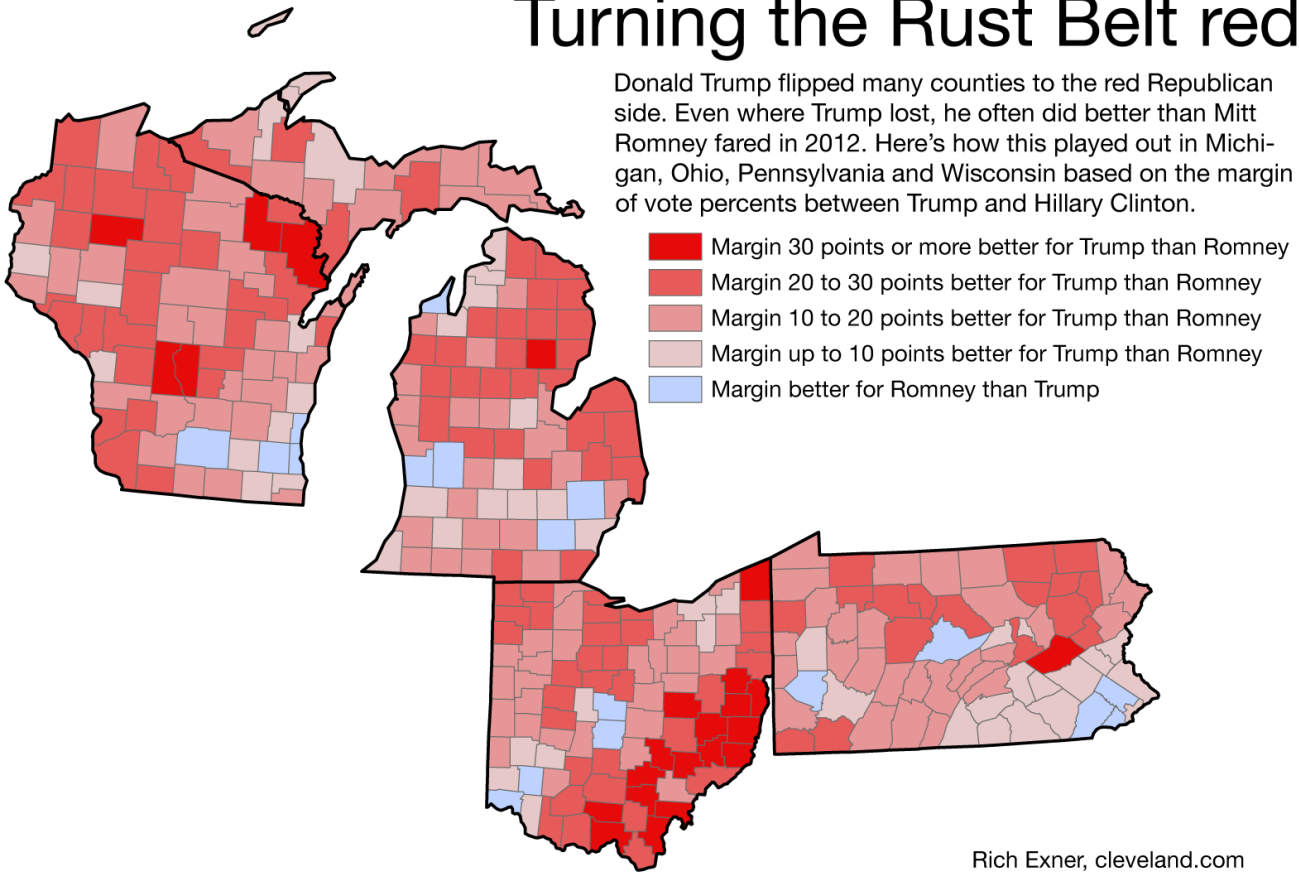
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# Turning the Rust Belt red

Donald Trump flipped many counties to the red Republican side. Even where Trump lost, he often did better than Mitt Romney fared in 2012. Here's how this played out in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin based on the margin of vote percents between Trump and Hillary Clinton.



Rich Exner, cleveland.com

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**Set D**

**Create Your Own FRQ with selected Text Passages and Data Sets**

The Secretary of Defense is in essence the deputy Commander in Chief. Just like the President, the Secretary of Defense must be prepared to carry out his military command responsibilities for 24 hours a day . . . I believe personally that [Secretary of Defense nominee] Senator [John] Tower has had a serious drinking problem . . . Standards must be set from the top down. If we want the sergeant at his post on the demilitarized zone in Korea, or the lieutenant standing alert with her SAC refueling tanker in the Midwest, to meet the high standards asked of those who wear our nation's uniform, we must make that clear here in the United States Senate.

---Senator Sam Nunn (D-GA), Senate Floor, March 2, 1989

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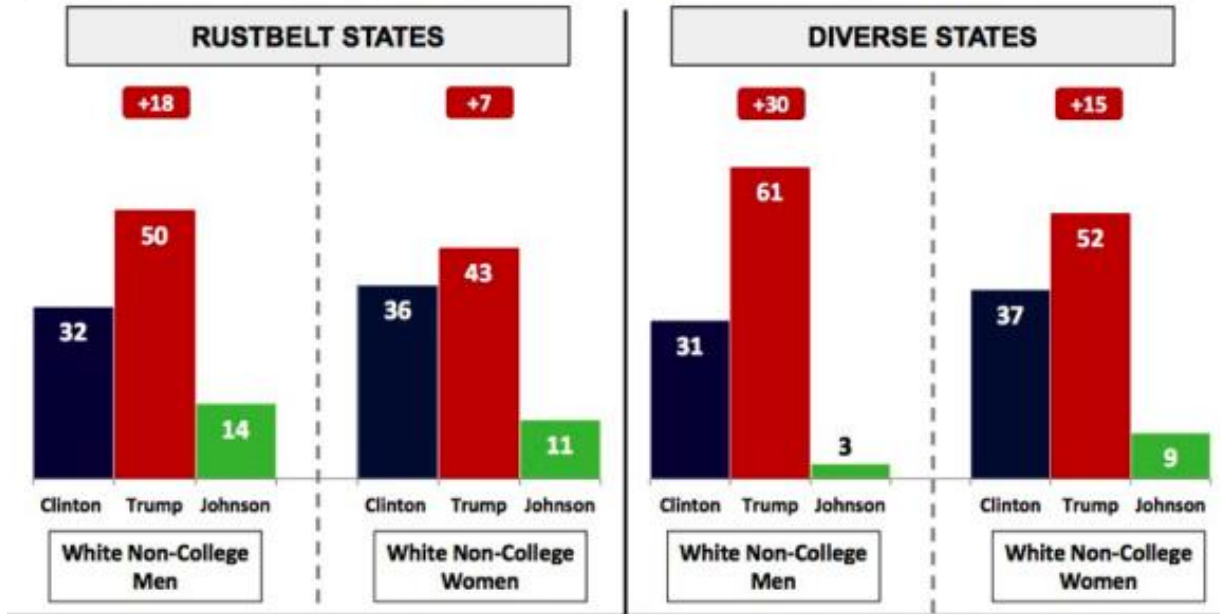
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## Trump performs better with working class men in diverse states

*I know it's a long way off, but thinking about the election for President in November, if the election for President were held today, would you vote for --Democrat Hillary Clinton, Republican Donald Trump, or Libertarian Gary Johnson?*



Source: Greenberg Polling, September 2016

He is a divider of the Republican Party and yet an enlarger of the tent. His candidacy is contributing to record turnouts in primary after primary, and surely bringing in Democrats and independents. But it should concern his supporters that his brain appears to be a grab bag of impulses, and although he has many views and opinions he doesn't seem to know anything about public policy or the way the White House or the government actually works. He is unpredictable, which his supporters see as an advantage. But in a harrowing, hair-trigger world it matters that the leaders of other nations be able to calculate with some reasonable certainty what another leader would do under a given set of circumstances.

---Peggy Noonan, "The Republican Party is Shattering," *Wall Street Journal*, March 5, 2016