



Environmental Policy

Letter of Introduction

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am very pleased to introduce myself and welcome the incoming students to my US Government and Politics course. I just wanted to give you a heads up on some of the things that will be happening this year, so I can better engage with the students, but also with you. At the Zoo Academy the students have a unique chance to learn that is hard to replicate in other, more traditional class settings. The specific focus of courses here at the Zoo Academy is on animals and the environments they live in. As part of this, I center the focus on the study of US Government around the formulation of political policy on the environment. Just like in a traditional government course that would be taught in the students' main schools, we will focus on the branches of government, roles of interest groups, importance of citizen participation, etc... Only in this class, the topics will revolve around discussions based on the protection, conservation, and use of the country's resources, and how government decisions are made that affect those resources.

Now I realize this is a very prominent, and possibly controversial, discussion in the United States right now, and it is not my objective to sway students' thoughts one way or the other on the matter. I encourage students to come to their own conclusions, and to question things they may not understand or agree with. The emphasis of this class will be the use of real data and information to make informed decisions and opinions. I strive to be as nonpartisan as possible, and allow the students to develop their own ideas based on available information. If at any time you would like more information, or question anything we are discussing in class, I highly encourage you to contact me and I can address those. Through teaching this class it is my goal that my students leave here knowing the importance of being an active citizen, knowledgeable about the functions of governance and how that affects them, and equip them with the skills and knowledge to make informed political decisions.

As part of this course I utilize an only learning space to help keep students, and parents, informed about what we are doing in class. I post coursework and assignments on the site daily, and try to make content as accessible as possible (The website for this course is <http://www.mrtredinnick.com/environmental-policy.html>). I also take a paperless approach to the course, and strive to limit paper consumption as much as possible by having students complete assignments online. If there is a concern with access to these online assignments (especially when going on vacation or otherwise) let me know and paper copies of assignments can be supplied. While at the school, students have access to iPads and computers, so they should not necessarily need to have a computer of their own (most assignments can be complete on smartphones if needed).

I am looking forward to another great year at Zoo Academy, and please do not hesitate to e-mail me with any questions!

Kyle Tredinnick

E-mail: Kyle.tredinnick@ops.org

Website: www.mrtredinnick.com