

Paper—Texas

Choose one of the three topics listed below.

For the first, it is your task to support or oppose one of these three policy issues. Think of me as the impartial reader and you are trying to convince me that you are making the best argument.

1. Capital punishment is cruel and unusual punishment and should be made unconstitutional in Texas.
2. The Texas Constitution should be amended to recognize gay marriage.
3. Texas should follow Colorado by legalizing and decriminalizing marijuana, both for medical and recreational purposes.

For the second, watch either of two classic movies set in Texas: *Giant* (1956) or *The Last Picture Show* (1971). For the first, discuss how the movie shows how the Texas of old (farming and ranching) became the oil rich state we know today. For the other, discuss some of the themes in the movie: the difference of rich versus poor, urban flight, and daring to dream. (Warning: *The Last Picture Show* is R rated)

For the third, I want your fearless forecast of the November gubernatorial election between Wendy Davis (D) and Greg Abbott (R). Who is going to win and by what percentage of the vote? Of the regions identified in the Jillson textbook, which candidate will carry them? (An overall electoral map is required) What are the chief issues in the campaign and where do the two candidate stand on that particular issue? What national concerns do you think will influence Texas voters in preferring one candidate over the other in the race? Note: Be objective, not partisan in your analysis.

Guidelines:

- Cover page with name, course, section, and date. Leave your name off the other pages.
- 500 words minimum, 700 words maximum (2-3 pages) word-processed.
- 12 or 14 Font, **double-spaced**—Courier or Cambria.
- One-inch margins, top, bottom, sides.
- Write in the first-person (I, me, my).
- Footnotes required, if necessary.
- Be sure to cite sources as footnotes.
- **If you are doing the first topic, your paper will be evaluated on the basis of the strength of your argument. There is no right or wrong answer, but if your argument either way is weak, your grade will suffer. Likewise, if you miss in the prediction of the gubernatorial race.**
- **Due date:** October 27 (MWF); October 28 (TTH)—50 points will be deducted if the paper hasn't been submitted by 5 pm on the due date; 10 points will then be deducted for each day it is late .
- **You will turn in a hard copy of the paper and send up an electronic copy to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).**

