

Thomas A. Edison Career & Technical Education High School

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AP Government & Politics: Summer Assignment

DUE DATE: TUESDAY, September 13, 2016

Source:

Gibbs, Nancy and Michael Duffy. The President's Club: Inside the World's Most Exclusive Fraternity. Simon & Schuster, New York: 2012

Introduction:

Backroom deals, secret alliances, bitter rivalries—these are just a few of the facets of what is perhaps the most important fraternity in American History. Bound by experience and the singular weight of holding supreme office, this club of former and current presidents has, in one way or another, acted as a secret and impactful instrument on the course of American—and world—history. *Time* editors Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy put these complicated relationships, from Truman and Hoover's truce at Eisenhower's inauguration to Clinton and Obama's touchy modern relationship, under the ultimate lens, revealing the ways in which president's in office must rely, sometimes against their will, on those few men who have sat in the same seat.

Task: Choose 1 out of the 2 questions for "discussion". Answer the question as completely as necessary in essay format. The use of proper citations within your essay is REQUIRED.

1. Though Clinton had the most former club members at his disposal (5 in total), individual relations with his predecessors all took on a unique, half-antagonistic quality. Discuss his collaborations (and attendant contentions) with Nixon (Russia), Jimmy Carter (Korea and Haiti), and Ford (Clinton's impeachment trial.) Were the club members helping the president, or protecting the presidency?
2. Do you think Bush 43 would have had a more successful presidency if there were not an "unspoken pact" between father and son regarding presidential advice? Would Bush 41, with an impressive record of foreign policy achievements and national deficit reduction, have been able to avoid some of today's major American problems by doling out executive wisdom to his son?

Advice:

1. The Edison library has stocked multiple copies of "The President's Club". Borrow the book or make copies of the appropriate chapters you will need.
2. Your own libraries should have this book in stock...if they do not you can request it and they should be able to borrow it for you.
3. Your essay should not be more than 3 pages and additional information from other sources is not required.