**WRITING ARGUMENTS: US GOVERNMENT 2017-2018**

**Unit 1: America’s Political Philosophy**

* Is democracy the best form of government?
* What do Americans value the most?
* Evaluate the core principles of the *U.S. Constitution*.
* If you had an opportunity to change the *U.S. Constitution* in one way to improve it, what would you propose?
* Imagine that you are advising a country creating a new constitution. Critique the different forms of government (monarchy, dictatorship, theocracy, democracy) and make a recommendation on the best form of government for the new nation.

**Unit 2: Linkage Institutions**

* Think about the problems facing our country or the world. Choose one issue or problem you feel strongly about. Make a case for why this problem is most important to address/solve.
* When you register to vote, what (if any) political affiliation will you select? Why?
* Should the Electoral College be abolished?
* Are campaign commercials a good source of information about candidates? Why or why not?
* How much influence do you think political advertising has on voters during elections?

**Unit 3: Legislative Branch**

* Do you think term limits are a good idea?
* Do you think our system makes it too hard to get a bill passed into law? Why or why not?

**Unit 3: Executive Branch**

* Do you approve or disapprove of the way the president is performing? Use evidence and examples to support your answer.
* Does the federal government budget and spend your tax dollars wisely? Include specific evidence such as facts, data, quotations, and examples to support your answer.

**Unit 3: Judicial Branch**

* A primary purpose of the U.S. court system is to ensure justice. Do you think it does that?
* Do you think juveniles should be tried as adults in the justice system? Why or why not?
* From doing the crime to doing the time: How just is our criminal justice system?
* Trial Court Simulation
* Supreme Court Simulation

