

MODERN DAY DE TOCQUEVILLE BOOK ASSIGNMENT

Goal

To present detailed observations and analysis about the state of democracy in modern-day America through a three-chapter, online, multimedia “mini book.”

Link to original Democracy in America book: <http://bit.ly/1kEkgn9>

Link to project rubric: <http://bit.ly/1cEcPts>

Directions

A chapter = 750 words + multimedia + citations

The first chapter should include your personal summary of how people in the U.S. viewed the country and its government in the past and how they view it today.

The books will be created and posted on www.scrollkit.com. They should have a main page that has your modern-day de Tocqueville name and links to your chapters.

Possible Ideas for chapters

- Religious influences
- Entertainment versus political engagement
- The role of the arts
- Official and unofficial leaders
- Individualism, self-interest, and the role of community
- Political parties
- Happiness and life satisfaction
- The changing roles of government
- The role of the military
- The ways people approach difference
- Changing roles of family and marriage in the U.S.
- Materialism and lust for wealth
- War and militarism
- Movements for peace and justice
- Revolutions
- Conformity
- Media and advertising
- Propaganda and thought control

- What is the role of government in the US? What should it be?
- In what ways does social class matter in the US?
- In what different ways do media influence US society?
- In what ways is there inequality between genders in the US?
- In what ways do people mobilize to demand action from government?
- What are the results and impacts of inequality in the US?
- What does the US government prioritize? What should it prioritize?

- Why is there so much violence in the US?
- How do people get power in US society?
- What is the role of corporations in US society?
- What different strategies do people use to mobilize government?
- Has money corrupted politics in the US?
- How can elections be improved in the US?
- In what different ways does the US approach foreign policy?
- What is the role of the US in the world?
- What are the roles of law and courts in the US?

Possible sources and quotes

All of my American Government links (there are currently 70):

<https://delicious.com/joshuahblock/amgov>

Noam Chomsky on Exceptionalism and Inflated Security Threats:

<http://rt.com/op-edge/chomsky-interview-foreign-policy-960/>

Walmart Workers:

<http://forrespect.org/>

"If men are to remain civilized or to become so, the art of associating together must grow and improve in the same ratio in which the equality of conditions is increased." - **Alexis De Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Chapter 5**

"At its strongest moments, democracy hints at a radical equality built on general empowerment and mutual concern. Yet this ideal must be understood as a social prerogative rather than a promise. It can only be realized through struggle, and is perpetually contingent on our ability to press and engage and argue for democracy's farthest-reaching and most egalitarian implications."

<http://www.trainingforchange.org/node/830>