

15th Amendment

AP GO/PO WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Directions: Write a clear, concise, and correct AP formatted essay on the following prompt. The essay must be hand written in blue or black ink pen and must be the solely the product of the student. NO SPIRAL PAPER!

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, 1870

Despite the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, voter turnout among African American citizens was very low throughout the first half of the twentieth century. Over the past 50 years, civil rights policies have changed substantially, along with a significant increase in African American voter turnout.

- (a) Explain how two measures taken by some states prior to the 1960s affected voter turnout among African American citizens.
- (b) Facing discrimination at the voting booth, many African American citizens turned to alternative forms of political participation. Describe two alternative forms of participation that helped bring about changes in civil rights policies.
- (c) Choose one of the forms of participation you described in (b) and explain why it was effective in changing civil rights policies.