Going in to this class I knew next to nothing on American Government, I was not interested, I was not informed, one of the only thing I did know was who was President, I didn’t even know who was Vice President. As you can tell, I was very not knowledgeable when it came to this subject, but know that I have obtained the knowledge I have a very rapidly growing fascination of American Government.

Taking this class has forced me to do a lot of research, look through many articles, many papers, etc. What helped allot was for most of the discussion assignment your put in a URL, with that URL I had the ability to locate many websites that you trust enough to give out information. A valuable help for me was wondering if the websites I was using where reliable, but if you gave out a URL to for example Week 2: Democracy/Republic or Oligarchy, I now knew that the site Rolling Stone was trust worthy, so if I saw that website again when I was doing research I knew that if I got my information from that site it would be true. I actually ended up making a “Website List” where I had all the trust worthy sites I found written down. What also helped was the study guide for the midterms. And finally, the book was a tremendous help to me, it seemed very up to date, for allot of things it was explaining it gave many examples, very easy to follow in my opinion, one of the only thing I had wrong with it is I feel like they could have made it about half as big, for some reason it was a little confusing to follow due to all the side paragraphs, lines under the photos, etc. it honestly just got very annoying.

I grew up homeschooled and have never had the need for any of those things besides the occasional google search. When this class began, I dreaded it and had a mindset of this is boring, but then I began to enjoy it and started to try harder, do more research, read more articles/papers. This being my first “Class” it was a challenge, but I wouldn’t change it for anything.

My favorite aspect of this class would be the discussion posts, it was very interesting to see what other people thought of the Government, one of my friends ended up in this class, Jackson Salazar, I thought that we agreed on things, then we began to discuss things such as Week 2: Democracy or Oligarchy, Week 3, Week 6, Week 9, Week 11.2, and more recently Week 12. Jackson was one of my friends who I thought we had the same standpoint for the government, but we ended up disagreeing with a lot of things.

Speaking of disagreeing, I found out there are many things I disagree with that the government does. I was astonished on how much I disagreed with the government, things such as the tax system, or education system, our even the cabinets, those are just three of the things that I disagreed with and didn’t have any problem with them before January.

That being said, I don’t understand why people hate so many politicians/Government Officials, out of every 200 things they do right, if they do one thing wrong everyone knows and nobody likes them. They end up becoming News Headlines, being known by a lot of people, not usually for the 200 things they did flawlessly, but the one thing they made a mistake on, I admit, I do make fun of a lot of politicians for the one thing they do wrong.

I have both a bigger understanding and appreciation for the government, being under that type of pressure and having to make decisions on what to do and can make sure it works and for it to help everyone. That is incomprehensible to me, so I have a big respect for all departments/branches of the government to have to go through that every day. If one of these people makes a slight mistake, it could very possible harm, ruin the lives of, many people, or it could ruin their reputation. I don’t know how people couldn’t respect that.

I will use this newfound knowledge of American Government to look at news in a different standpoint, to get to the bottom of a story before I judge any Government Official, like President Trump firing Comey, I chose not to talk about that until I got all the facts, until I saw both sides of the story. That’s something that I never did before, before this class if I happened to see some Political Headliner, I would read the first couple sentences just so I could be ‘Up-To-Date’ and if someone asked me about it I at least new a little bit.

After doing this course I have a much bigger understanding on what the government is doing and why their doing it. When I look on the news and saw that President Trump proposed a new tax plan, I could look at it, understand it, and be able to ‘see’ what it would do to America. Before this class I would have never been able to come even close to understanding it.