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**Principles of Democracy**

*Mr. Petraitis*

Cuyahoga Falls High School

Welcome to Mr. P’s P.O.D. class! The core of this course will examine political systems at the local, state, and national level in order to understand that people create these systems as structures of power and authority, to provide order, to maintain stability, and to promote the general welfare. You will examine and evaluate civic ideals and how to participate in community life and the American democratic system.

One thing that you must understand in my class is that nothing will be handed to you. It is my goal to make sure that you succeed, and to do that you must meet me halfway. I cannot possibly do the work for you.

Effort is defined as showing up prepared for class, turning in work on time, participation, and putting in time outside of class. Please come to class with an open mind every day willing to give me your best.

Rules / Expectations

1. Respect is the #1 rule in my classroom. Respect me, respect my room, and respect my things. If you show respect, you will get that in return.
2. When I’m talking…you’re listening…period.
3. Each grading period you will have 3 restroom passes. You may use them all in one week or spread them out. If you left a personal belonging in the cafeteria, that counts. If you need to get your notebook out of your locker, that counts. Just know that all you get is 3, no excuses.
4. Bring your textbook, pencil / pen, and paper every day. If you forget your textbook once, I will let you borrow one of mine. Any time after that you are looking at a detention. If you forget a writing utensil, you may borrow one from me on a collateral basis. No paper? Borrow a piece. Bottom line…bring your things every day.
5. Be on time! If you are tardy, you are tardy. To be honest, I really don’t care what the reason is. 3 tardies will get you a detention, 5 tardies will get you to the office.
6. All detentions are served with me in my room. You will have the choice to serve them 30 minutes before school or 30 minutes after school. If you miss a detention, 2 more will be issued to you. Miss either of those; you win a trip to the office.
7. If you have a question…ask. There is no such thing as a dumb question. Regardless of what you may think, I cannot read minds. It is my job to help you with anything that is unclear.
8. If I see or hear a cell phone, mp3 player, CD player, etc… it’s mine! Save the talking and texting for your own time. If you have them it’s your business, but I better not see or hear them.
9. Sorry ladies…purses on the ground. I’ll let you figure out why.
10. For fifty minutes I expect your undivided attention. That is not too much to ask. From the time you walk in the door to the time you leave, your focus is on what we are doing. That means keep the math and science books put away. I guarantee that if you sincerely try to understand what we are talking about and give a conscious effort, there is no way you cannot succeed in P.O.D.

Grading

1. Quizzes / Tests – I like to call them quizzes, you may like tests. Either way, expect one every week and a half.
2. Quarterly Project – Will be in the form of a research paper, artwork / visual presentation, essay, or a combination of the three.
3. Weekly Assignments – Essays, critical thinking, primary sources, etc.
4. Extra credit – To be determined.
5. All assignments are due IN CLASS. If any assignment is turned in later in the day or the following day it will be considered late. Late work is 10% off each day it is late up to 50%. After five days, it’s a zero.
6. Participation – The more you contribute in class in some form or another…the better. Participation will be factored in at the end of the grading period. I realize that we are not all talkers. Participating in group discussions or projects most definitely counts.