

# ESSAY QUESTION



Do you think that implementing the Alaska system (i.e., a top-4 primary combined with ranked-choice voting in the general) would change how campaigns for Congress are run in your state? Be sure that your answer addresses all the following and anything additional that you think is relevant:

- **What types of candidates would be likely to run for office?**
- **What types of issue positions candidates take in their campaign?**
- **What types of voters they would try to reach out during the campaign?**

Whether you think things would change or would not change, be sure to justify your answer for full credit.

## POTENTIAL GRADING RUBRICS

### POINT-BASED RUBRIC

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	POINTS
<b>Thesis &amp; Overall Argument</b>	Clear and well-articulated position on whether the Alaska system would change congressional campaigns in the student's state	4
<b>Candidates</b>	Thoughtful analysis of what kinds of candidates would likely run under the new system	4
<b>Issue Positions</b>	Insightful discussion of how candidates might shift their messaging or policy positions in the new system	4
<b>Target Voters</b>	Explanation of which voters candidates would prioritize reaching under this system, and why.	4
<b>Use of Evidence &amp; Reasoning</b>	Uses examples from the movie and/or real-world logic to support claims	2
<b>Clarity &amp; Organization</b>	Essay is clearly written, logically organized, and relatively free of grammatical errors	2

## LEVELS-BASED RUBRIC

CRITERIA	EXCELLENT (A)	PROFICIENT (B)	DEVELOPING (C)	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (D/F)
<b>Thesis &amp; Argument</b>	Clear, original, and strongly defended	Clear and mostly well-defended	Present but underdeveloped	Unclear or missing
<b>Engagement with Prompt</b>	Fully addresses all 3 required bullet points plus additional relevant considerations	Addresses all 3 bullet points	Misses one bullet point or addresses them superficially	Misses two or more required components
<b>Evidence &amp; Justification</b>	Consistently supports claims with logic or references to the film or real-world examples	Mostly supports claims with some justification	Occasional justification, sometimes unclear	Lacks evidence or reasoning
<b>Messaging Strategy</b>	Very clear, well-organized, and easy to follow	Generally clear and organized	Somewhat unclear or poorly organized	Hard to follow or disorganized

## HOLISTIC RUBRIC

- **A (Excellent):** Essay presents a clear and well-argued position on the effects of the Alaska system on campaigns in the student's state. Addresses all three bullet points in depth and adds relevant insights. Uses examples or evidence from the film or real-world politics to support claims. Writing is clear and logically organized.
- **B (Good):** Essay makes a clear argument and addresses all required points, though one or two are treated less fully. Provides some justification or evidence for claims. Writing is generally clear and well-structured.
- **C (Adequate):** Essay presents a position but may be unclear or inconsistent. Addresses only two of the three required components or addresses all but superficially. Limited justification for claims. Writing may be disorganized or unclear in places.
- **D/F (Needs Improvement):** Essay lacks a clear argument and/or fails to engage with most of the prompt. Does not justify claims. Writing is unclear, poorly organized, or incomplete.