



2023-2024 USSYP/OREGON ESSAY QUESTIONS

SELECT ONE (1) QUESTION AND RESPOND IN 600-1000 WORDS

1. As a student leader in Oregon, what do you see as the greatest areas for improvement in the education system, and what ideas would you propose to create better dialogue and understanding among various student groups?
2. Assess the issues underlying the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Students For Fair Admissions v. Harvard* (2023). Do state or federal governments have an interest in how private universities select students for admission?
3. During the most recent regular session of the Oregon Senate, for six weeks several senators boycotted, denying the Senate the necessary two-thirds attendance for a quorum. The boycott stalled hundred of bills, including bills on abortion, gender-affirming care, and gun limitations. In response, some Oregonians advocate lowering the quorum from two-thirds attendance (20 senators) to half attendance (15 senators) for a quorum. Should senators in the minority be able to stop the legislative process through boycotts? Why or why not?
4. Imagine that you have recently been elected as one of the youngest members of the Oregon legislature. What would be the first bill you would introduce? Describe the provisions of your bill and why this initiative is your top priority.
5. Is there an important historical figure from Oregon that you feel has been underrepresented in the high school history curriculum? Describe this figure's contribution to our nation's (or our state's) history and why it would be important to raise awareness about them now.