

American Politics in a Nutshell

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ENGL 1121: College Writing and Critical Reading

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10/11/2023

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A short while ago, I was called a supporter of baby killing by one of my family members. It seems that in our day and age, each side of the political aisle is at each other's throats. America has never been more divided than it is today. Politicians and groups within the political realm seem to be dysfunctional and slow. People may say that politics do not equate to much, and they are right in a way. American politics at least, are very dysfunctional and in dire need of revival and healing. America needs to join together; even if we have opposing beliefs we can still push for change. Galant, who makes the statement that the world is turning upside down, I believe is correct in his assumption and we should take a hard look at the state of America.

According to Galant, even if the government is getting shut down which it almost did a couple of weeks ago Galant (2023) who is the managing editor of CNN Opinion says, "Members of Congress, who are failing in their budget-making role would still get paid" This shows the pure dysfunction of our government currently. Although they did pass a resolution to keep the government open, they were not able to address the pressing issue of completing the budget. Filibustering is just one example of pure dysfunction, it usually involves one or more people delaying legislation from being passed and oftentimes stalling for hours upon hours, usually for nothing, as the resolutions most times pass anyway. We were once close to ending filibustering, which was slowing the already slow process of politics, and government. You are still allowed to filibuster and impede democracy, which in turn slows actual change.

A more recent example of a failed government would be its ability to pass a critical funding bill before the deadline, and if the deadline passed it would shut down the whole federal government. Just a couple of weeks ago, they passed a bill. Except it was only to delay the

shutdown and not address the actual funding bill. They clapped in the chamber after the vote to delay occurred. Meanwhile, thousands of Americans are homeless and hungry. They clapped for passing nothing at all, only a delay to the critical funding bill which included pay for active enlisted men and women. This is one of many examples of government dysfunction. This just shows how slow the government acts even when it involves the needs of the American people. This is not just at the Federal level either, it includes all levels including state governments. For example, the city of San Francisco cleared out the homeless for the arrival of President Xi of China. Rather than addressing the issue now, they sweep it under the rug for later. Congressmen and women sit and do nothing. They applaud themselves for barely staying afloat whilst getting paid hundreds of thousands of dollars a year.

A lot of the blame from the opinionated article is directed at former president Donald J. Trump, “Nothing Trump does can shock us anymore,” Galant (2023), referring to Donald Trump’s recent conduct in disrupting democracy. “His latest comments add to plentiful evidence that a second Trump term would be even more riotous at home and globally disruptive” Collinson (2023). There are honestly so many articles I could’ve chosen which show the scale of political strife. I would disagree with the amount of blame placed on one person for failing politics and government. Each side of the political aisle is to blame for not doing enough for the American people. You can look almost anywhere online and see hundreds of articles attacking Trump. The same goes for President Joe Biden, Lowry (2021), who is an editor of the National Review and a contributing editor with Politico states, “Biden blatantly distorted Republican state-level election laws in a frankly demagogic speech”. These two examples show how both sides can be viewed in a negative light; it is all a matter of personal belief. But, we as a nation

are way too divided to make even a single step of progress. Too much blame-shifting and division is leading this country in the wrong direction.

For a more personal reason, politics and government are turning upside down for me. Politics are known to cause strife and disorder among families. A short while ago during our local elections in Minnesota, I went to vote for the Governor of Minnesota. Me and my dad discussed who we might vote for in the election about a day prior. He said he was going to vote for the Republican candidate, whilst I was considering the democratic candidate. I grew up in a pretty Republican-oriented family. But for me, I had more liberal values than the rest of my family. When voting day came, I voted for the Democratic candidate and told my dad on the way home from the high school where we voted. My dad must have told my brother who I voted for because later that night he told me, "So, you like killing babies," he said, dead serious. I was shocked at this accusation towards me as it never had really gotten to that level before. My dad did absolutely nothing to come to my aid or defense. I tried to defend myself the best I could, but the berating continued until I realized it was pointless to argue. I realized how much it was angering everyone involved. Then, I went back into my room, choosing to let go and forget about it. The next day I expected an apology of some sort but got nothing. I suppose either he forgot about it or was just too invested to apologize. This country is twisting and turning from politics, tearing some families apart. Although I have been able to move on and nothing similar happened since, some families are so invested in politics that the arguments can lead to shunning and sometimes even worse in certain cases. This division is taking place in thousands of families across America.

The government's lack of action, combined with political and petty battles that lead to

nothing good and family infighting around the country leads to our political and governmental situation turning upside down. The more and more I research this subject matter, the more I find personal examples, and realize how bad it actually is in this country. Thankfully, I am in a social position where it is not a huge worry for me, but for some areas of the country it is a heated topic, and rightfully so, people depend on politicians and the government to get things done. So that they can have food on the shelves and a roof over their heads. People don't care for the bickering between parties or who's right or who's wrong, they only care about real change that affects them in a positive way. The truth is America is moving fast, expanding and growing to massive proportions, but Congress and politicians are slowing things down.

References

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