

**UWF's First Annual**  
**Reuben O'D. Askew Department of Government**  
**American Politics Essay Competition**  
**Offering up to \$2,500 in Prizes**

**Topic:** Separation of Powers

**Prompt:** One of the hallmarks of the American constitutional order is its reliance on the separation of powers. For more than two centuries, Americans have tended to believe that human freedom is most secure, and good government is most likely, when the powers of government are not allowed to fall into the hands of one or a few individuals. *Federalist 51* presents a classic defense of this doctrine:

...But the great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same department, consists in giving to those who administer each department the necessary constitutional means and personal motives to resist encroachments of the others. The provision for defense must in this, as in all other cases, be made commensurate to the danger of attack. Ambition must be made to counteract ambition. The interest of the man must be connected with the constitutional rights of the place. It may be a reflection on human nature, that such devices should be necessary to control the abuses of government. But what is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself....

Read and reflect upon *Federalist 51*. Then prepare an essay of 1,000 – 2,000 words explaining whether or not you think the separation of powers remains an important element of American politics today, and why or why not. Essays should be double-spaced, with 12-pt Times New Roman font and 1" margins. Essays need not include additional sources. If you do quote from or reference other sources, be sure to include citations in a consistent format. All essays will be submitted to turnitin.com prior to judging; essays containing evidence of plagiarism will not be judged. Do your own work.

**Prizes:** First Place - \$1,250 UWF tuition scholarship, Second Place - \$750 UWF tuition scholarship, Third Place - \$500 UWF tuition scholarship

**Eligibility:** The competition is open to all high school juniors and seniors currently residing in Escambia, Santa Rosa or Okaloosa County.

**How to Enter:** We expect a well-written and carefully developed essay. Submissions should be e-mailed in .pdf or .docx format to [dramsey1@uwf.edu](mailto:dramsey1@uwf.edu) no later than **March 18, 2022**. Use the words ESSAY COMPETITION in the subject line of your e-mail. Winners will be notified in April, and invited to receive their award at the Department's Pi Sigma Alpha award ceremony and luncheon in late April or early May. The winning essays will be published on the Department of Government website.