

NAME: _____

AP US Government



PERIOD _____

Mr. Crawford

Assignment: Political Philosophy

1. On the political spectrum from Anarchy to Dictatorship below, LABEL the location where you believe each of the four philosophers Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu, and Smith would be placed:

Tyranny _____ Anarchy

2. Read the excerpt from the American Declaration of Independence below

In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America,

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Turn page to back

a. Outline the basic arguments of the Declaration.

b. Identify the author of the Declaration's beliefs about human nature and support your assertion with evidence from the document.

c. Identify Jefferson's ideal form of government and support your assertion using evidence from the Declaration.

d. PLACE and LABEL Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration, on your political spectrum on the first page. Why would you place him there?

BONUS: From what you currently know about Conservatives and Liberals in the United States today, PLACE and LABEL them on the political spectrum on the first page.