**Mr. Burkhard**

**Civil Government Pre-Test**

**NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

BACKGROUND: Because of new state requirements, we will be conducting a "Pre-test" and a "Post-test" in Civil Government, which will enable us to see what progress you have made in the understanding of Civil Government over the course of the year. You will be asked to complete a very similar (if not identical) assignment at the end of the year.

THE ASSIGNMENT: Today, you will be answering a number of questions regarding Civil Government. Please do your best to answer them based upon the experiences that you have had in your life. Be as thorough and descriptive as possible. Please use all of your writing skills in your answers, I expect them to be well-thought out and grammatically correct.

On the questions regarding research (Questions 3 and 5), you must hunt down some information, feel free to use any resources you wish, including online resources.

Please answer the questions below:

***QUESTION ONE***: What is Government? What does it look like, how does it act, why does it exist?

***QUESTION TWO:*** Describe how “Government” is a part of your life. When do you see it, when do you know it is there? List and describe at least FOUR examples.

***QUESTION THREE***: Research the Federal Court Case BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 403 v. FRASER, 1986. In your own words, explain this case and its outcome and how the case may apply to you. (You can use any resources you wish for this question.)

***QUESTION FOUR***: Read the following opinion letter from a reader of The Gadsen Times in Gadsen, Alabama:

*Last year 47 percent of workers paid no federal taxes (USA Today). This percentage has risen in the past several years as more credits become available for low-income taxpayers.*

*Low-income workers do pay payroll taxes for Social Security and Medicare. They also pay local taxes in the form of sales taxes, property taxes either directly for houses they own or are purchasing or through their landlord if they rent and other fees. But nearly half of workers pay no federal income taxes.*

*It’s morally repugnant that someone who pays no taxes should be able to vote for representatives who promise to increase taxes on those who do pay them. It also generates a separate group of people who have no interest in keeping track of federal financial policies. No wonder the federal government plays fast and loose with our tax dollars, when almost half of the electorate could care less what happens because they don’t pay in.*

*William Klein*

Using well-thought out arguments and proper grammar, respond to this letter. Choose either to support or to oppose Mr. Klein’s assertion, if you find any holes in his argument or would like to suggest any changes that you would recommend, please do so in your writing.

***QUESTION FIVE:*** Using any resources you wish, answer the following question- What is the difference between a Democrat and a Republican? List at least three differences found in your research.

***QUESTION FIVE***: Without checking online, please fill in as many of the following blanks as you can-

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| --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Name** |
| President of the United States |  |
| Vice-President of the United States |  |
| Speaker of the House of Representatives |  |
| The Republican Presidential Candidate |  |
| The Democratic Presidential Candidate |  |
| Secretary of State of the United States |  |
| A United States Supreme Court Member |  |
| Governor of Colorado |  |
| A State Senator from Colorado |  |
| Mayor of Ault |  |
| A Weld RE-9 School Board Member |  |