Government 2305

Homework Assignment #5A (12 March 2017)

Students are to find a person to conduct a small interview over that individual’s opinion of government.

The student is to seek out someone who is at least 60 years old. The older the better, within reason; you obviously do not want someone who has aged to the point of being short of mental faculties. Ghosts from the colonial era are unacceptable.

The student is to ask the person their views of government and what it was like when they were the student’s age (approximately 20). For example, a person at the approximate age of 60 years old would be looking at a period in the early 1970s. Several questions come to mind, though the following are a minimum of what should be asked:

* What was the federal government like during their time when they were your age, as compared to how things are today?
* Does the federal government give state and local government more lateral today or is it less?
* Does more individual liberty exist now, or was it greater during their early years?
* Why do they believe the federal government is the way it is today, as compared to 40-60 years ago?
* Is the economy better or worse?
* Is the current generation of young people more informed, or less informed about their government?
* How do they see the global situation today?
* What does the person believe the future will be like?

The goal is getting the individual comfortable so they are willing to speak frankly and openly about their views toward the government. Remember, this is about federal government and not the state or local level, unless they can connect the national government with what is happening at the state level.

Yes and no answers are not desirable. You want them to elaborate. This is intended to be an interview, not an interrogation.

The chances of this happening are better if the individual knows the student. You may write a summary report, or design your paper as if it is the transcript of an interview.