

FIVE TIPS FOR A GOOD WE THE PEOPLE ANSWER

TIP #1 Begin with a DIRECT answer to the question

TIP #2 Explain your reasoning for your answer

TIP #3 Each answer should contain a concrete historical example

TIP #4 Each answer should contain a concrete contemporary example

TIP #5 Each answer should try to show your understanding of the complexity of the topic.

SAMPLE

QUESTION

In light of the principles embodied in the Declaration of Independence, do you think that citizens in a representative form of government have a right to take up arms and rebel against their government?

Mr./Madame

Chairman:

Yes, I do think that citizens in a representative form of government have a right to take up arms and rebel against their government. As Jefferson has written, " ...whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it..."

I say "yes" with two qualifications:

First, the government is denying its citizens their life, liberty, or property.

Two, there are no peaceful or non-violent avenues left for the citizens to regain their right to life, liberty, or property.

Colonial Americans maintained that the English government was taking their property in the form of the Sugar and Stamp taxes in violation of their right to property.

If in the current United States the government took your land for a highway project, didn't give you fair compensation, didn't let you vote, didn't let you complain in public about it, and didn't allow you to take it to court then such people would have the right to alter or abolish the government.