Consider and elaborate on at least 2 of the following primary source document excerpts when responding to the writing prompt on the next page:

"Such a Government is only to be supported by pure Religion, or Austere Morals. Public Virtue cannot exist in a Nation without private[virtue], and public Virtue is the only Foundation of Republics. There must be a possitive Passion for the public good, the public Interest, Honour, Power, and Glory, established in the Minds of the People, or there can be no Republican Government, nor any real Liberty. And this public Passion must be Superiour to all private Passions. Men must be ready, they must pride themselves, and be happy to sacrifice their private Pleasures, Passions, and Interests, nay their private Friendships and dearest Connections, when they Stand in Competition with the Rights of society… We are engaged in the best Cause that ever employed the Human Heart, yet the Prospect of success is doubtfull not for Want of Power or of Wisdom, but of Virtue."

Excerpt taken from a letter written by John Adams to Mercy Otis Warren, 16 April 1776

"We have called by different names, brethren of the same principle. WE ARE ALL REPUBLICANS; WE ARE ALL FEDERALISTS. If there be any among us, who would wish to dissolve this union, or to change its republican form, let them stand undisturbed, as monuments of the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated, where reason is left free to combat it. I know indeed that some honest men fear that a republican government cannot be strong—that this government is not strong enough. But would the honest patriot, in the full tide of successful experiment, abandon a government which has so far kept us free and firm, on the theoretic and visionary fear, that this government, the world's best hope, may, by possibility, want energy to preserve itself; … I believe it the only one, where every man, at the call of the law, would fly to the standard of the law, and would meet invasions of the public order as his own personal concern."

An excerpt from SPEECH OF THOMAS JEFFERSON, President of the United States, DELIVERED AT HIS INSTALMENT, MARCH 4, 1801, AT THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

"Every man's thought is part of the vital substance of its institutions. With the change of his thought, institutions themselves may change. That is what constitutes citizenship so responsible and solemn a thing. Every man in a free country is, as it were, put upon his honor to be the kind of man such a polity supposes its citizens to be… Every generation in a free state realizes the perpetuation of its institutions depends upon the thought and disposition of the generations which are to follow, and busies itself to hand the impulse and the conception on by careful processes of education, stamping its thought among young men, seeking to make its own frame of mind permanent… 'Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.'… It is the essence of a constitutional system that its people should think straight, maintain a consistent purpose, look before and after, and make their lives the image of their thoughts."

An excerpt from Constitutional Government in the United States, Woodrow Wilson, 1856-1924

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America"

Preamble to the Constitution of the United States

Writing Prompt: The American experience has been defined not by the perfect realization of democratic ideals, but by the persistent effort to expand them - from the founding era's vision of liberty to movements that have broadened rights and participation. This pattern of progress through challenge places a clear responsibility on the next generation to actively defend democratic institutions, expand access, and continue pushing the nation closer to its founding principles.

How has the ongoing effort to uphold democratic ideals of our constitutional republic shaped the American experience over the past 250 years, and what responsibilities does this place on the next generation?

Essays must contain the following essential components:

1. **Thesis Statement**
   Present a central argument that directly addresses the guiding question, clearly taking a position on each generation's responsibility to adhere to, protect, broaden and/or strengthen America's constitutional republic.
2. **Interpretation of the Quoted Ideas**
   Analyze and elaborate on how the primary source excerpts lay a foundation of expectation for the continuance of America's constitutional republic.
3. **Understanding of constitutional principles and the democratic ideals that support them**
   Demonstrate an understanding of the foundational principles, ideals and responsibilities of self-government.
4. **Use of Evidence** *(in addition to supplied excerpts)*
   Support claims and examples from various points of American History with primary and secondary sources.
5. **Historical and Contemporary perspectives and/or examples**
   Identify the vision of the Founding Era and examine specific examples of the ongoing efforts to uphold democratic ideals and how they have shaped the American experience.
6. **Conclusion that Synthesizes Ideas**
   Reinforce the thesis while considering what the future holds. Present a challenge or call to action to your generation and their posterity.

YOUR ESSAY SUBMISSION:

- MUST NOT have a cover page.
- MUST be typed and double-spaced.
- MUST have your name at the top of the first page.
- MUST NOT exceed two pages (if you have a works cited page, it will not count as part of your page count).

ESSAY EVALUATION: The rubric that will be used to evaluate and score your essay will be based on the question prompt and its 6 essential components.

(continued)

HELPFUL WRITING TIPS - *Keep the following information in mind as you write and proof your essay.*

COHERENT AND LOGICAL INTRODUCTION

- *Essay has a historical and practical background on the topic or issue addressed by the question.*
- *Essay has supporting ideas and facts. (No representation of personal or political opinions of the essay writer.)*
- *There is a thesis statement that speaks to the question asked.*
- *The thesis statement is clear and logically expressed.*

ESSAY DETAILS AND SUPPORT

- *The main points of the prompt are addressed in the essay.*
  - *The essay addresses what has been asked for in the essay prompt.*
  - *Arguments or information are presented for the points being addressed.*
  - *Supporting evidence is provided for any arguments or information presented.*
  - *The essay is detailed with information and evidence to support the thesis statement.*
  - *Examples used to highlight make a logical connection to what they illustrate.*
- *The essay uses evidence that offers historical, contemporary, and current examples/descriptions.*
- *Personal conclusions are supported with data and information to support the writer's perspective.*
- *ALL the elements or components of the essay prompt are addressed with information, examples, data, etc.*
- ***Caution:***
  - *Avoid flowery writing and descriptions full of imagery.*
  - *Avoid opinion unless to address the portion of the essay which asks that an opinion be provided.*
  - *Focus on writing a well-detailed paper based on research and facts to support your views.*
  - *You are writing an expository essay which presents a balanced analysis of a topic.*

ORGANIZATION

- *The essay is written with a clear flow that is easy to read and comprehend. Sentence flow, paragraph and thought transitions, and appropriate word choice are important.*
- *Information is organized and structured in a logical manner.*
- *There is a clearly defined introduction.*
- *There is a clearly defined conclusion.*

ACCURACY OF INFORMATION

- *Information is correct and researched.*
- *Information is not value laden.*

- *The concluding thoughts make a clear connection to the question or thesis based on the support and evidence presented in the essay.*

MECHANICS

- *Spelling is correct.*
- *Punctuation is correct.*
- *Capitalization is appropriate.*