I. **A short abstract:**

Throughout this program and from the knowledge I gain from it, a research topic I would like to look into is: why and in what ways are citizens involved in politics? More specifically, I would like to take this opportunity to delve into certain demographics and cultures and see how different citizens' political involvement is around the world. I would like to compare and contrast the level of involvement citizens have toward their government taking into consideration factors such as voter turnout, social media participation, donating to political campaigns, actively speaking out, etc. My central question falls under the campaigns, communication, and elections category because it addresses the key linkage institutions that connect and tie together the citizens with their government. My project design consists of conducting interviews to various sources, those who are listed in section III.

II. **Significance of my research:**

My research question is interesting and important for Presidential or Congressional studies because citizen participation is now more important than ever. Presidents and congressmen and women alike need the support for their election campaigns and even after being elected, they need citizens backing up their decisions to ensure a successful tenure. However, this is an area about which much has been written, so it is important that I bring about uniqueness in my approach and I will do so by then comparing the political participation seen in the United States with countries across the globe, because political participation looks very different than the one exhibited in America. In Japan, I caught on that people my age were not
interested in politics and had no plans on becoming interested, and I immediately questioned how that came to be. With this very recent personal experience that I have, I would like to compare and contrast what aspects of Japanese society differ from American society that results in such a varying degree of interest in politics from the people. Is it embedded in the culture? The education? Not limited to Japan, I would like to extend my research to a plethora of countries and categorize them by continent to gauge how different citizen participation is in respective countries’ politics.

III. **Design and feasibility of my research:**

I will go about exploring my research question by conducting interviews. My plans for interviews with relevant officials include journalists, fellow program participants involved in American universities, and any politicians who are in charge of press relations and are well-informed on the citizens’ reactions to politics. I would interview the journalists and politicians to gain more insight on what kind of content attracts which demographic and what aspects of that content particularly draws attention. I would interview fellow participants enrolled in American universities by asking them to what extent they feel that they are a part of American politics and what caused them to participate. Additionally, I would like to research and hopefully get in contact with representatives from one or two political organizations with predominately young members to ask about their involvement in politics and what led them to their active participation. My plans for using special documents or archives include informing myself on the statistics in regard to comparing and contrasting political participation around the world whether that be voter turnout percentages or political media involvement ratios. My research question is appropriate for a fifteen-page paper because the overarching topic is intentionally broad so that I can research it from various perspectives and use the wide spectrum it covers to my advantage.