Argumentative Essay Practice FRQ

Develop an argument that explains which of the three models of representative democracy—participatory, pluralist, or elite—best achieves the founders' intent for American democracy in terms of ensuring a stable government run by the people.

In your essay, you must:

- Articulate a defensible claim or thesis that responds to the prompt and establishes a line of reasoning
- Support your claim with at least TWO pieces of accurate and relevant information:
  - At least ONE piece of evidence must be from one of the following foundational documents:
    - Brutus 1
    - Federalist No. 10
    - U.S. Constitution
  - Use a second piece of evidence from another foundational document from the list or from your study of the electoral process
- Use reasoning to explain why your evidence supports your claim/thesis
- Respond to an opposing or alternative perspective using refutation, concession, or rebuttal

CLAIM or THESIS

SAMPLE A
I think the founders' intent would best be achieved by a pluralist form of government because it allows a wide variety of people to have influence yet provides a balance of opinion to keep one group from overpowering the rest.

SAMPLE B
Upon creation of the US, people had many different ideas on what type of representative democracy should be formed. However, it is clear that the framers wished to create a participatory democracy, in which everybody was involved as clearly shown through the declaration of independence and the constitution.

SAMPLE C
The model I feel achieves the founders’ intent for American democracy today is the pluralist theory. The pluralist theory is shown today with all the interest groups and other rallies occurring.

EVIDENCE

SAMPLE A - PLURALIST
This can be seen in Federalist 10 which supports factions and explains that they are an unavoidable part of a healthy, stable government. Factions that cancel each other out are less of a threat and this can be seen in parties and interest groups in America.

The declaration shows how the founders of the US wished to create a participatory democracy through its criticism of the British gov. A main complain in this document was that colonies had 0 representation in Brit. gov. They were not granted the rights of citizens but were still paying taxes. This shows their wishes to have people represented in the government which would later be replicated in the formation of the US.

Another doc which details the founders intent is the constitution. This document lays all the rights of the people and regulations for exercising them. It details how a person can run for a particular office, such as POTUS, and
gives people rights to achieve gov intervention such as the rights of speech, petition, and assembly. Clearly these inclusions who the intent of the founders to create a participatory democracy.

**SAMPLE B - PARTICIPATORY**
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**SAMPLE C - PLURALIST**
In the US Constitution, everyone is given the right to free speech and the right of association. This allows for there to be MANY groups to vocalize their opinions. Which is what the pluralist view consists of. Another piece of evidence to support pluralism as the model that the founders would agree with is Federalist 51 which suggest that government be elected by the people is superior to tyrannical monarchy.

**SAMPLE D - PLURALIST**
As expressed by Federalist #10 by James Madison, separation of powers will allow the branches of gov to remain fair as each branch provides a check and balance on one another. For example, this allows for a stable government as seen by checks on the executive in current events such as judicial review on Trump’s Muslim ban executive order, declaring it unconstitutional. Another check would be the veto where the president can kill a bill that Congress passes.

The Constitution says that every citizen gets to vote for their own member of Congress. This gives the average person direct influence on government.

**REASONING**

**SAMPLE A - PLURALISM**
This can be seen in Federalist 10 which supports factions and explains that they are an unavoidable part of a healthy, stable government. Factions that cancel each other out are less of a threat and this can be seen in parties and interest groups in America.

**SAMPLE B - PARTICIPATORY**
The declaration shows how the founders of the US wished to create a participatory democracy through its criticism of the British gov. A main complain in this document was that colonies had 0 representation in Brit. gov. They were not granted the rights of citizens but were still paying taxes. This shows their wishes to have people represented in the government which would later be replicated in the formation of the US.

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**ALTERNATIVE VIEW**

**SAMPLE A - PLURALIST**

While some may say that the founders set up an elitist gov because of the way the Electoral College works, this type of government would go against their intentions written out by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration. He explained the goal was to be free of King George and Parliament, which ruled in an elitist manner over them. They wanted a way to obtain power, even if they were not directly a part of the government. The pluralist model of government would set up a way for more people to have power and make sure the will of the people is known and acted on accordingly.

**SAMPLE B - PARTICIPATORY**

...some others still argue that another form of democracy should have been developed in the US For example, many wish that an elite democracy in which only the wealthy and educated citizens can participate should have been created. They argued that through voting, uneducated people are not intelligent enough to choose the best option and would ruin the country for all. However, this argument is less convincing because everyone is able to determine what they think is best for them, and what is best for one may not be for another, so why should only one side decide what is best for all?