NAME: _________________________

PART I:

THE FOLLOWING QUESTION IS MANDATORY AND MUST BE ANSWERED BY ALL STUDENTS (25 points)

Imagine that you are pursuing the creation of, or alteration of, the law in the United States in a policy area of importance to you. Contemplate the strategy that you might take to achieve your desired outcome in light of the following questions.

- Would you pursue your goal in the halls of the federal government or state governments, or both? Why? (Hint: Think federalism and its implications)
- Which institution(s) of government would be most useful to you to achieve your goals? Which would likely not prove useful? Why?
- Which linkage institution(s) might be useful avenues to achieve change? Which would not be effective? Why?
- What impediments exist that could limit the success you have in achieving your goals?

In answering this question, you should discuss the broad process of attaining specific policy goals within the political and cultural context of American representative democracy. How do institutions and actors influence the operation of the democratic process? If it makes the writing both easier and more comprehensible to the reader, you may use an actual policy debate to describe the unfolding of the process.