Questions: The Presidents’ Gatekeepers

Directions: Answer 10 out of the 15 questions in paragraph form. Each paragraph must be at least five sentences.

Use the same font and style as your public policy paper. Use the same heading except put “The Presidents’ Gatekeepers Response Essay. Double Spaced.

1). What does the title represent? Is it an accurate description of the role of the chief of staff for the President of the United States? Why or why not?

2). James Baker has been called “The Gold Standard” when it comes to the expectations of the chief of staff? Give an example of why.

3). What was Andrew Card’s role in 9/11? Why do you think he lasted five years on the job when the average chief of staff only last a year and a half? Explain how he handled the situation at the Florida Elementary School.

4). LBJ’s handling of the Vietnam War: Do you agree with it? How about his plan of ending the war in his first term of the presidency? Smart decision or not?

5). The resignation of Richard Nixon: Should have Chief of staff Houlder been sent to prison or should it have been Richard Nixon? Thoughts?

6). Gerald Ford and his handling of being President: Was it right for Americans to think he was a fool? Could have Donald Rumsfeld have changed that perception of him as his chief of staff?

7). Betty Ford was very outspoken in a time when first ladies of the United States were not? Why was she like this? Should Rumsfeld have said to Gerald Ford: “Get her under control? Why or why not.

8). At first Jimmy Carter did not want a chief of staff? Was this a good decision? How about his handling of the energy crisis in the mid 1970’s and the Iranian Hostage situation? Did it affect his re-election campaign in 1980? Would a better chief of staff have helped once he got one?

 Explain.

9). Ronald Reagan chose very carefully when he chose his 1st chief of staff. Why did he choose James Baker over other candidates? Would you have chosen James Baker? Why or why not.

10). Explain James Baker’s role in trying to get the country under control when the assassination attempt of Ronald Reagan failed and he was in the hospital. Could he have handled it better? Why or why not.

11). George H.W. Bush lost the 1992 Presidential Election to Bill Clinton when many thought he would win. Did 3rd party candidate Ross Perot have a play in this? What happened between those two when Reagan was President and Bush was Vice President? In the end Perot got 19% of the vote that Bush would have normally gotten. If you were the chief of staff what would you have suggested during Bush’s campaign in order to win his re-election bid?

12). Bill Clinton’s first chief of staff made him look stupid. Why? What was the biggest mistake Clinton made when chosen his 1st chief of staff?

13). Your thoughts on the Monica Lewinsky Scandal? Obviously it went wrong for Clinton. What would you have suggested Clinton to say and do when the media found out about his affair?

14). What were your thoughts on how President Obama handled the capturing of Osama Bin Laden? His 2nd chief of staff was on his first day of duty when it occurred. If that was you what would be going through your mind?

15). Is the chief of staff the hardest job in America? Yes or no? Explain with details and at least two examples.