

AP U.S. Government and Politics /Summer Reading Assignment Summer 2020

Dear AP Government Student,

I am excited to welcome you to AP U.S. Government & Politics during this momentous time in our nation's history. It should be a fascinating summer and fall as the presidential campaign unfolds in the shadow of the pandemic. As AP Government students, you will be informed witnesses to history, so begin now. Watch/read the news from different sources. Consider the role of government generally. What is it doing? What is it required/allowed to do? What should it be doing?

Please see the summer work below. It is intended to give you a basic understanding of the origins and workings of government, as well as a glimpse of how politics impact the operation of government.

I will set up a Google Classroom as soon as student scheduling is complete, so please keep an eye out for an invitation in the next few weeks.

AP U.S. Government & Politics Summer Work 2020

A. Read The Supremes' Greatest Hits, by Michael G. Trachtman, Esq. (2016). Respond to the following questions; handwrite your response:

1. Identify and describe briefly the case that establishes the Supreme Court's authority to review the actions of the other branches of the government.
2. Identify and describe briefly a situation in which the Supreme Court overturned one of its own cases. Identify and describe briefly both cases. Describe the Court's reasoning.
3. Choose one case from the book that you thought was particularly interesting (that you have not discussed in #1 or 2 above). Identify and briefly describe the case.

B. Read and Outline/Summarize the U.S. Constitution, Articles 1-3

1. **Please read the U.S. Constitution** <https://constitutionus.com/>.
2. Outline/summarize Articles 1, 2, and 3. Your outline must be handwritten. It should be divided by article and sections within the articles. As long as you follow those guidelines, you may use any format that you prefer.
3. Based on your reading, please respond to the following questions. **Please cite to the article and section of the Constitution in which you find the information:**
 - a. What power may the president exercise with regard to war? What power may the Congress exercise with regard to war?
 - b. How does the Constitution define the role of the judiciary?
 - c. According to these three articles, what is the role of the federal government in governing schools?
 - d. Who ratifies treaties?
 - e. What is the role of the federal government in regulating interstate commerce.

Both of these assignments (A. and B.) are due at the beginning of the first class.

C. Follow the News

1. Choose one **national** news story to follow for the summer. (Try to strike a balance between a very broad story, e.g., Covid 19 and a very narrow story e.g., the death rate in one small

location). Follow the story on at least **two** different news outlets. Summarize its progress/events, note any relation to the government and identify differences in the two sources' reporting in a typed 1-2 page paper and post it on Classroom. I will post more details about this assignment on Classroom by the end of June.

I will be checking my email regularly. Please feel free to contact me at jomalley@bluehills.org with any questions or concerns. Have a wonderful summer! I look forward to a terrific year next year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. O'Malley