



12th Grade AP Government/Economics Summer Assignment

Purpose:

The purpose of this 12th Grade AP Government and Economics summer assignment is to ensure that students 'hit the ground running' upon their return to school for the 2021-2022 school year. By reading and annotating their summer book, the teacher can immediately begin teaching and discussing the material, making classroom time more efficient and productive.

Students who will be taking on-level 12th Grade Government and Economics are more than welcome to complete this summer assignment, but it will not be offered for any credit. Its purpose will be to help the student get a head start on the material that the teacher will begin introducing into their class in the following weeks.

Summary of *The Law* by Frederic Bastiat:

Bastiat's most famous work is *The Law*, originally published as a pamphlet in 1850. It defines, through development, a just system of laws and then demonstrates how such law facilitates a free society. In *The Law*, he wrote that everyone has a right to protect "his person, his liberty, and his property". The State should be only a "substitution of a common force for individual forces" to defend this right. "Justice" (defense of one's life, liberty, property) has precise limits, but if government power extends further, into philanthropic endeavors, government becomes so limitless that it can grow endlessly. The resulting statism is "based on this triple hypothesis: the total inertness of mankind, the omnipotence of the law, and the infallibility of the legislator. The public then becomes socially-engineered by the legislator and must bend to the legislators' will "like the clay to the potter" (*The Law*).

Summer Assignment Directions:

In preparation for the year, students are to read and annotate the book *The Law* by Frederic Bastiat over the summer. Please be prepared to begin the 2021-2022 school year with a fully annotated copy of the reading. Annotations must be done in the book in legible handwriting.

Important Details:

- **Due date:** First Day of School
- **Submission:** Arrive at school with a fully annotated copy of *The Law* that your teacher will grade when your class discusses the material in class.
- **Grading:** The assignment will be reviewed for completion. Teacher(s) may provide feedback to students at their discretion.
- Teachers will be using the summer readings during the first weeks back to school and teachers will be requiring the text be brought to class. Therefore, at a bare minimum, your student would benefit from completing the summer reading to prepare for the discussions that will ensue upon our return.



Annotation Tips and Tricks:

- **Summarize key points in your own words.** Use headers and words in bold to guide you and look for main ideas, arguments, and points of evidence
- **Circle key concepts and phrases.** What words would it be helpful to look-up at the end? What terms show up in lecture? When are different words used for similar concepts? Not every annotation has to be a sentence in length. Sometimes simple markings are the most effective.
- **Write brief comments and questions in the margins.** Be as specific or broad as you would like—use these questions to activate your thinking about the content
- **Use abbreviations and symbols.** Using question marks, exclamation points, and asterisks are helpful tools that will save you time and energy in your annotations. Be careful not to overuse them though, because frequent use can confuse your teacher and even yourself at a later point in time.
- **The appropriate amount of annotations for this assignment is 2-3 annotations per page,** but you are more than welcome to use more if you see fit.