

AP Government & Politics Summer Assignment

Next year, you will be embarking on a wild ride through the world of politics and the history of our government. There will be discussions, debates, lectures, activities, quizzes, and a lot of reading. Although this might sound challenging, the summer assignment is designed to get you ahead and lay a foundation to make sense of AP Government & Politics. Please do not procrastinate. Pace yourself. Especially with the current events. There will be a lot happening at the federal and state level this summer.

Required Assignments

- Philosophies
- Constitution Scavenger Hunt
- Amendments
- Keep up with Current Events
- Read Foundational Documents

Many of the answers can be found at <https://constitutioncenter.org> Complete all work in your own words. **DO NOT COPY/PASTE** from the Constitution or from any other source. This assignment must be completed in full and turned in during the first week of school to receive credit.

- **Your work should be your own.** You will quickly fall behind if you do not do your own work. Please **HAND WRITE**, no typed work.
- It may be possible to simply search Google and submit the “correct” answers. It is always possible to copy another student’s answers. Be advised - you would be doing yourself a great disservice. **You must** understand and be familiar with the format and contents of the Constitution to do well in this class. Simply knowing the “correct” answer is not enough. You will be setting yourself up for failure. Do not fool yourself. Read and re-read the document, you will thank yourself later.
- **There will be a short Constitution Quiz o during the 2nd week of school.**
- Please email with any questions: biggsbyr@gmail.com will go right to my phone, or biggsbyr@gaylord.k12.mi.us
- Please do not wait until the last minute to ask questions.

Philosophies:

1) Who were John Locke, Montesquieu, and Rousseau? What do they have to do with the USA?

2) What is the “Social Contract”? How does it relate to our government?

3) What natural rights did John Locke advocate? Do these sound familiar?

4) What were the Articles of Confederation? What was the problem with these?

5) Was everyone for the proposed US Constitution? Why or why not?

6) How was the Constitution ratified?

Constitution:

Main idea: KNOW THE THREE BRANCHES, THEIR ENUMERATED POWERS AND HOW THEY CAN CHECK/BALANCE EACH OTHER!!!!

The Constitution – this is an EXTREMELY important document for everyone in this country, especially AP Gov students! Understanding it will provide a great foundation for the class. Knowing it well before starting the class will give you a solid starting point for the class that will last throughout the year.

These are guiding questions for reading the Constitution. All answers can be found in the <http://constitutionus.com/> , <https://constitutioncenter.org> or by searching online. Remember that all responses should be written in your own words.

1) Describe the basic function of each of the three branches: One sentence for each.

Legislative :

Executive:

Judicial:

2. Identify the terms of office and qualifications for each:

Executive & Legislative Officers		
Constitutional eligibility requirements (also known as formal requirements)		
	TERM OF OFFICE	QUALIFICATIONS
U.S. House		
U.S. Senate		
President		
Vice President		

3. Identify two powers denied to Congress in the Constitution. Where is this found in the Constitution?

4. How does the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings (the ability to have debates, amendments, etc.)? Where is this found in the Constitution?

5. Identify two powers the Constitution denies to the States. Where is this found in the Constitution?

6. According to the principle of checks and balances, each branch of the government must have control over the other branches. Look at the first three articles of the Constitution and identify one of each type of checks and balances. ****Don't forget to list where it is found in the Constitution!****

a. A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch.

b. A power that the executive branch has over the judicial branch.

- c. A power that the legislative branch holds over the executive branch.

- d. A power that the legislative branch holds over the judicial branch.

- e. A power that the judicial branch holds over the executive branch.

- f. A power that the judicial branch holds over the legislative branch.

Electoral College

1. If not candidate for the presidency wins a simple majority of the total number of electoral votes, what body has the power to choose the president?

2. What margin is required to choose the president?

3. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described (hint: there are two parts)

ARTICLE I - Legislative Branch

1. Article I, Section 1: What is the meaning of Section 1? What is Bicameral? Why did they create two branches?

Article I, Section 2 – US House

2. Term of Office?

3. Qualifications?

4. Define apportionment.

5. Define impeachment. Who has the power to impeach? How does impeachment work?

Article I, Section 3 – US Senate

1. Term of Office?

2. Qualifications?

3. How were US Senators originally selected? How did the 17th Amendment change this? Which system is more democratic?

4. What are the restrictions on the Vice President’s Senatorial power?

5. Who is the President Pro Tempore? Why does this position exist?

6. What is the Senate's impeachment power? What are the vote requirements?

Article I, Section 8-Congress' Powers. YOU WILL BE TESTED ON THESE!!

1. What are the enumerated powers of Congress? What does enumerated even mean? YOU MUST KNOW THESE FOR THE TEST!!!!!!!

2. Why does the legislative branch have so much power? (Hint: Articles of Confederation)

3. How can Congress check other branches? Executive and Judicial

ARTICLE II - Executive Branch

Article II, Section 1

1. What is the term of office for president and vice president? What are the qualifications?

	Term of Office	Qualifications
President		
Vice President		

2. Explain the president's role as Commander in Chief.

3. What are the President's duties as they relate to diplomacy/foreign affairs?

4. Define pardon.

5. Can the president appoint judges/diplomats without Congress? What is Congress' role?

6. What is the State of the Union address? When is it to be given?

7. List all the enumerated powers of the president. YOU WILL BE TESTED ON THESE!

Article II, Section 4

1. Under what conditions can the president and vice president be removed from office?

2. Define high crimes and misdemeanors.

3. Who were the only two presidents to be impeached? Were they removed from office?

4. What body has the power to impeach the president?

5. What vote is required to impeach?

ARTICLE III - The Judicial Branch

Article III, Section 1

1. What is the only court established by the Constitution?

2. What is the term of office for federal judges? What is the logic of this provision?

3. The court of original jurisdiction is the first court that hears a case. Appellate courts hear cases on appeal from lower courts. Although the Supreme Court functions primarily as an appellate court, it is the court of original jurisdiction in certain kinds of cases. What are those? ****Don't forget to list where it is found in the Constitution!****

Article IV- What is full faith and credit?

Article VI-What is the Supremacy Clause?

THE AMENDMENTS

1. What are two ways that amendments can be proposed?
2. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified?
3. What are the first 10 Amendments of the Constitution called? Why were these created?
4. What is the 10th amendment? How might this conflict with the "Supremacy Clause"?
5. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protects the rights of women and how do they protect them?

6. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of African Americans?

7. The 25th Amendment describes the sequence of events that would install the vice president as acting president against the will of the president. Outline that sequence of events.

Foundational Documents

These documents are available online. We will cover these once class starts but reading ahead of time will make you better prepared to make sense of the material in class.

- The Declaration of Independence
- The Articles of Confederation
- Federalist #10
- Federalist #51
- Federalist #70
- Federalist #78
- Brutus #1
- Letter from the Birmingham Jail

Current Events

Pay attention to the news – current events specifically dealing with the national/international government and politics. We will have frequent discussions in class over related material that appears in the media. 📰

- **Find 5 current event/articles using news articles/stories from (CNN, MSNBC, CBS, ABC, Fox News) or search sites (www.realclearpolitics.com) or Political Think Tanks (Cato Institute, Brookings Institute)**
- Learn to watch the news with a critical and analytical eye – is it fact or opinion?
 - Internet sites for any of the preceding (be sure it is credible!)
<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com>

As you watch these programs and follow the stories, if you find that you do not quite possess a full understanding of the details, you should try to research those points.

***The next several pages are templates that you may fill out for completion of the current event.**

Name:
Date:

Title of Article:
News Source:

Brief Summary:

What did the article teach you about the U.S. or government?

Impact on the U.S. or society in general:

Name:

Date:

Title of Article:

News Source:

Brief Summary:

What did the article teach you about the U.S. or government?

Impact on the U.S. or society in general:

Name:

Date:

Title of Article:

News Source:

Brief Summary:

What did the article teach you about the U.S. or government?

Impact on the U.S. or society in general:

Name:

Date:

Title of Article:
News Source:
Brief Summary:
What did the article teach you about the U.S. or government?
Impact on the U.S. or society in general:

Name:
Date:

Title of Article:

News Source:

Brief Summary:

What did the article teach you about the U.S. or government?

Impact on the U.S. or society in general: