

AP United States Government and PoliticsHS473H Summer Reading Assignment

Name: _____

Summer Reading Assignment:

AP United States Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. This summer reading assignment will require you to familiarize yourself with the U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. You've been provided with a course-pack that will be a point of reference throughout the entirety of the course. Moreover, through this summer assignment you will be engaged in disciplinary practices that require you to read and interpret primary sources, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments.

On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this work.

Signature

I do not know of any violations of the Honor Code.

Signature



Foundational Documents

The required readings are the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, Bill of Rights (along with the additional 17 Amendments), the Articles of Confederation, representative *Federalist Papers*, *Brutus* No. 1, and Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." In addition, there are 3 required Supreme Court cases *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819) and *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824). You will study these foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors.

The AP U.S. Government and Politics course features nine required foundational documents to help students understand the philosophies of the founders and their critics. These documents are:

- The Declaration of Independence
- The Articles of Confederation
- *Federalist* No. 10
- *Brutus* No. 1
- *Federalist* No. 51
- The Constitution of the United States
- Bill of Rights (plus the additional 17 amendments)
- *Federalist* No. 70
- *Federalist* No. 78
- Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Most of these documents were written in the late 18th century and contain some high-level language. It is important for you the student to be able to read and accurately interpret these documents.

Essential Questions:

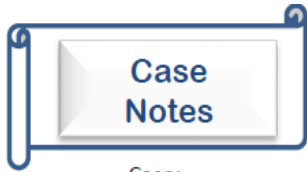
- How did the founders of the United States Constitution attempt to protect individual liberty, while also promoting public order and safety?
- How have theory, debate, and compromise influenced the United States Constitutional system?
- How does the development and interpretation of the Constitution influence policies that impact citizens and residents of the United States?
- How do the branches of the national government compete and cooperate in order to govern?
- To what extent have changes in the powers of each branch affected how responsive and accountable the national government is in the 21st century?
- To what extent do the U.S. Constitution and its amendments protect against undue government infringement on essential liberties and from invidious discrimination?

Supreme Court Cases

For the required Supreme Court cases, you should know the major details of each case, the holding in the majority opinion, the constitutional principle used by the justices to support their finding, and the overview of the argument(s) by dissenting justices (if applicable). There are four key elements for you the student to understand about these U.S. Supreme Court cases: **the facts**, **issue(s)**, and **holdings (including dissenting opinions)**, including the reasoning behind those decisions.

Required Supreme Court Cases

- *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)
- *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819)
- *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824)



Case: _____ Year: _____

CASE BACKGROUND (include relevant events, legislation, or rulings):

Empty box for case background notes.

LAW, AMENDMENT, or CONSTITUTIONAL TEXT in question:

Empty box for law, amendment, or constitutional text in question.

MAJORITY OPINION

AUTHOR:

Key Claim(s):

Reasoning used to justify the opinion:

DISSENTING OPINION

AUTHOR:

Key Claim(s):

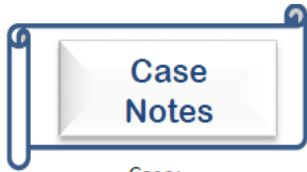
Reasoning used to justify the opinion:

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>MAJORITY OPINION</p> <p>AUTHOR:</p> <p>Key Claim(s):</p> <p>Reasoning used to justify the opinion:</p> | <p>DISSENTING OPINION</p> <p>AUTHOR:</p> <p>Key Claim(s):</p> <p>Reasoning used to justify the opinion:</p> |
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Implications:





Case: _____ Year: _____

CASE BACKGROUND (include relevant events, legislation, or rulings):

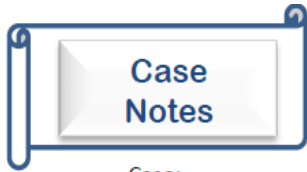
LAW, AMENDMENT, or CONSTITUTIONAL TEXT in question:

| MAJORITY OPINION | DISSENTING OPINION |
|--|--|
| <p>AUTHOR:</p> <p>Key Claim(s):</p> <p>Reasoning used to justify the opinion:</p> | <p>AUTHOR:</p> <p>Key Claim(s):</p> <p>Reasoning used to justify the opinion:</p> |

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Implications:





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|--|--|
| <p>AUTHOR:</p> <p>Key Claim(s):</p> <p>Reasoning used to justify the opinion:</p> | <p>AUTHOR:</p> <p>Key Claim(s):</p> <p>Reasoning used to justify the opinion:</p> |

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Implications:

