

AP U.S. Government & Politics Summer Work

Welcome to AP U.S. Government & Politics! Our course will explore the foundations of and levers of power within American government. We will analyze how differing philosophies have been seen with American democracy and how competing interests and groups can work to influence policy making with our American democracy. Central to American democracy are several core principles including:

- *Federalism*
- *Separation of Powers/Check and Balances*
- *Limited Government*
- *Popular Sovereignty*
- *Judicial Review*

Assignment:

- Part 1: Research and define each of the principles bulleted above. **You will be assessed on your understanding of these ideas on the first day of class.**
- Part 2: ***Current Events:*** AP U.S. Government & Politics balances studying ideological and abstract concepts with their practical application and impact on the American political system and peoples' lives. Consequently, understanding the current political landscape and building your background knowledge are important to allow you to engage with and fully analyze the content in this course. You will be researching how these principles continue to shape American political discourse.
 - Find and read/listen/watch at least two media sources (newspaper articles, podcasts, news segments) for each of the five principles listed above.
 - For each source, you need to complete the organizer below which includes:
 - Providing a proper citation (including source, date, and name of article/podcast/segment)
 - Brief summary of source
 - Brief explanation of how it connects to principle
 - Your sources should include a balance of liberal, moderate, and conservative sources (see media bias chart attached)
 - ****A HARD COPY of this assignment is due on the FIRST day of class****
 - **These sources will serve as your references for a summative discussion the first week of school.**

Suggested Resources:

| Newspapers/Print Sources | Podcasts | News Programs |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>NPR</i>• <i>The New York Times</i>• <i>Washington Post</i>• <i>Wall Street Journal</i>• <i>The Economist</i>• <i>BBC</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The Daily Podcast</i>• <i>NPR: Politics Podcast</i>• <i>Five-thirty-eight Politics Podcast</i>• <i>WSJ What's News Podcast</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>PBS Frontline</i>• <i>60 Minutes</i>• <i>Local News Stations (ex. Channel 8 News)</i> |

Media Bias Charts/Resources:

- Websites to identify media bias:
 - <https://www.allsides.com/media-bias/media-bias-ratings>
 - <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/>
- Media Bias Charts:

AllSides™ Media Bias Chart

All ratings are based on online content only — not TV, print, or radio content.
Ratings do not reflect accuracy or credibility; they reflect perspective only.



AllSides Media Bias Ratings are based on multi-partisan, scientific analysis.
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L: Liberal

sL: Skews Liberal

M: Moderate

sC: Skews Conservative

C: Conservative

Name:

Date:

Current Events Analysis

Title of Article

Source:

Publication Date:

Which of the five core principles
are being featured in this article?

Article Summary

...with necessary context to the principle identified

Assessment of Bias:

- Where on the political spectrum does this source usually fall?
- Where in the article can you see bias in the reporting?

Opinion – What are your thoughts and feelings after reading this article?