

AP US Government & Politics  
Fairfield Warde High School  
Summer 2024

Welcome to AP Government and Politics, this should be a very exciting year of study and exploration. This summer we would like to lay the foundation for some of the work we will be engaging in during the year. In order to help make our work in the course more meaningful, we are asking you to start engaging in the sphere of government and politics in more depth.

There are two parts to the summer work assignments for AP US Government & Politics. All summer work assignments must be submitted on Google Classroom by the first day of school, August 29, 2024. In order to help pace your work during the summer, there is a suggested timeline for completing your work provided as well.

**Part I: *Identifying Concepts of American Government In Real Life***

There are five major concepts of American Government that we will be analyzing over the course of the year:

- Limited Government
- Natural Rights
- Popular Sovereignty
- Republicanism
- Social Contract

Over the course of the next ten weeks of summer, you will need to develop your own understanding of each concept by identifying them in contemporary events. For each of the concepts, you will need to start with a basic definition (HINT: your textbooks for this course are a great starting point for this). You will then need to identify TWO different events that happen over the summer for each concept. The events must occur between June 1, 2024 and August 27, 2024. Then using the events you have identified, you then need to develop your own position on how the concept is seen (or maybe not seen ) in the American government and political system today.

Please use this [template](#) to complete your work - it is also posted on the Summer Work Google Classroom for you.

Over the first few class periods when we return to school in August, we will be having formal graded discussions on these concepts. You will be able to use printed copies of your completed work in these discussions.

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**Part II:** *What is the purpose of government?*

Over the course of the year we will continue to ask ourselves the question of what is the purpose of government in the United States? We will also work on evaluating to what extent the current US Government is achieving its purpose.

In order to help us begin to develop a better understanding of the purpose of government, you will create an initial position statement. To help facilitate the development of your own initial position of the question, you will need to read one of the following documents.

- [John Locke's \*Second Treatise of Civil Government\* \(1689\)](#) (Selections)
- [Baron de Montesquieu's ideas about separating powers in government found in the \*Spirit of the Laws\* \(1748\)](#) (Excerpt)
- [\*Declaration of Independence, 1776\*](#)
- [\*Federalist 10, 1787\*](#)
- [\*Brutus I, 1787\*](#)

Please use a printed, hard copy of the document for your reading (there will be copies of all of the documents available in F-5 OR F-10 between now and June 12th). You will need to annotate the document and submit these annotations on the first day of class.

Additionally, you will need to develop an initial written statement on what you believe to be the purpose of government. This response should be 1-2 pages in length, it must include references to at least one of the documents identified and reference to at least two contemporary events from the summer of 2024 (you can use two of the events you identified in Part I of your summer work). Over the course of the school year we will continue to develop this position piece and refine it with additional evidence.

There will be a rubric posted for this portion of the summer work assignment on Google Classroom.

Suggested Timeline:

Friday, June 14th	<p>Identify a plan for how you're going to monitor what is going on in the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Pick a new outlet you can commit to reading/watching on a regular basis. Maybe even identify a podcast or radio program you commit to listening to on a regular basis.</li></ul> <p>If you are struggling to come up with a plan, please reach out.</p>
Friday, June 28th	<p>Part I - review each of the five concepts and draft initial explanations of each</p> <p>Start to identify current event topics for each of the five concepts</p>
Friday, July 12th	<p>Part I - Complete TWO of the five Concepts In Real Life</p>
Friday, July 26th	<p>Part I - Complete an additional TWO of the five Concepts In Real Life</p>
Friday, August 9th	<p>Part I - Complete the final Concept In Real Life</p> <p>Part II - Read and annotate the hard copy of your chosen document</p>
Friday, August 23rd	<p>Part II - Complete and submit your written position on the purpose of government</p>