

**Overview:**

AP United States Government and Politics is a political science course that examines the foundations of American democracy, interactions between branches of government, and the role of political parties and ideologies in political participation and policy making. Throughout the course, you will read and examine an array of foundational documents and learn how to apply the concepts in those documents to both historic and current political events. In addition, you will analyze Supreme Court cases, understand the majority opinions, the rationale for those opinions, and apply the established precedent to various course concepts. In short, we will learn how our government works and how to apply it to real-life situations.

**Three parts:**

1. U.S. Constitution Analysis
2. Declaration of Independence Analysis
3. Current Events Analysis

**Part 1: U.S. Constitution Analysis - 40 points**

**Directions:** Read the Constitution and write a detailed summary for each part/section of the document listed below. An effective summary will concentrate on the big ideas and the details that connect to those big ideas. Simply re-writing the Constitution in new words is not considered an effective summary. Use the link to the Interactive Constitution for additional information and analysis. Bring your handwritten notes on loose leaf paper (not in your notebook) and stapled together for submission on the first day of school.

Link to the U.S. Constitution: [U.S. Constitution](#)

Preamble

Article 1

Article 2

Article 3

Article 4

Article 5

Article 6

Article 7

Amendments 1-10 (summarize these amendments individually)

Amendments 11-27 (summarize these amendments individually and group them logically)

**Constitutional Clauses of Note:** Commerce Clause, Full Faith and Credit Clause, Necessary and Proper Clause, Establishment Clause, Free Exercise Clause, Due Process Clause, Equal Protection Clause, and the Supremacy Clause.

## Part 2: Declaration of Independence Analysis - 20 points

**Directions:** Read the Declaration of Independence and use the document to answer the following questions. Bring your handwritten responses on loose leaf paper (not in your notebook) and stapled together for submission on the first day of school.

Link to the Declaration of Independence: [Declaration of Independence](#)

1. Choose one idea or phrase from the Declaration (e.g., “all men are created equal,” “consent of the governed,” “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”, etc.), and explain:
  - a. What this idea meant in the historical context of 1776.
  - b. Whether or not this idea has been fully realized in American history, using at least one specific example to support your answer.
2. The Declaration of Independence focuses on these democratic ideals: Limited Government, Social Contract Theory, Natural Rights, Popular Sovereignty. Complete the following for each ideal.
  - a. Define each term.
  - b. Identify a specific part of the document where Jefferson refers to each term.
  - c. Apply each term to a contemporary political example.

## Part 3: Current Events Analysis - 15 points

**Directions:** Complete the current events assignment linked below. See directions on that assignment for details. Submit on your AP U.S. Government and Politics Schoology page by the first day of school.

1. Complete the current events assignment for an article you have selected to read this summer. Articles must include a direct U.S. government action and be chosen from a reputable news source. Use the link below to make a copy of the assignment, and find the directions.

[Current Events Assignment](#)

All summer work must be your own, completed with academic integrity, and without the assistance of other people, sources, or AI tools.