

U.S. Constitution Dissection & Analysis Assignment

AP U.S. Government & Politics Due:

Aug 15th via On Campus

Purpose: To gain a foundational understanding of the structure, principles, and powers established by the U.S. Constitution, and to analyze how it shapes the American system of government.

◇ PART I: PREAMBLE

1. Write out the Preamble in your own words.
2. What are the six purposes of government listed in the Preamble?

◇ PART II: THE ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

Article	Topic	Summary (in your own words)	Key Powers or Principles	Example in Today's Government
I	Legislative		Branch	
II	Executive		Branch	
III	Judicial		Branch	
IV	States			
V	Amending		Process	
VI	Supremacy		Clause	
VII	Ratification			

◇ PART III: CHECKS & BALANCES + SEPARATION OF POWERS

1. How does the Constitution prevent one branch of government from becoming too powerful?
2. Give one example of a check each branch has over another.
3. Why did the Framers build a government based on separation of powers?

◇ PART IV: THE AMENDMENTS

A. The Bill of Rights (Amendments 1–10)

1. For each of the 10 amendments, write a brief summary of the right it protects.
2. Choose two amendments from the Bill of Rights and explain how they apply to a modern-day issue.

B. Key Amendments After the Bill of Rights

Amendment	Summary	Impact/Importance
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13th

14th

15th

17th

19th

22nd

24th

26th

◇ PART V: APPLICATION & ANALYSIS

1. How does the Constitution reflect the principle of federalism?
2. Why is the amendment process intentionally difficult?
3. Which part of the Constitution do you think has had the greatest impact on American society? Support your answer.

Submission Checklist:

All sections completed in full
Constitution read and annotated
Clear, thoughtful responses
Sources cited (if used)

AP Government Summer Assignments Overview

1. There are 9 foundational documents required for the AP Gov't exam. Compile summary paragraphs (main ideas) for each of the following documents:
 - Federalist No. 10
 - Federalist No. 51
 - Federalist No. 70
 - Federalist No. 78
 - Brutus No. 1
 - Declaration of Independence
 - Articles of Confederation
 - Constitution of the United States
 - Letter from a Birmingham Jail (Martin Luther King, Jr)

2. There are 14 required Supreme Court cases for the AP Gov't exam. Compile summary paragraphs (constitutional questions, background of case, decision of court). www.oyez.org is an excellent source:

- McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
- United States v. Lopez (1995)
- Engel v. Vitale (1962)
- Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972)
- Tinker v. Des Moines Community School District (1969)
- New York Times Co. v. United States (1971)
- Schenck v. United States (1919)
- Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)
- McDonald v. Chicago (2010)
- Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
- Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)
- Baker v. Carr (1961)
- Shaw v. Reno (1993)
- Marbury v. Madison (1803)

B. Purchase or acquire an AP Government textbook and have in class on the first day: American Government Institutions and Policies 16th Ed. by Wilson and DiIulio.

C. Purchase an AP Gov't review book:

Recommended: 5 steps to a 5 or Princeton review

Visit www.oyez.org for court case details.