

2026-2027 AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS SUMMER ASSIGNMENT: THE US CONSTITUTION

Ms. Johnson

This college-level course is a challenging course that is meant to be the equivalent of a freshman college course and can earn students' college credit. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills. Remember, your success will depend upon your willingness to prepare for it.

I am asking that you complete the following summer assignment to help prepare you for the class. It is essential in the AP US Government and Politics course to understand the foundation of our system of government, the US Constitution along with the changes to the constitution. It is also helpful to stay up to date on current events to understand how our political system works. Outlines should be in your own words and voice, not the voice of the Framers (or any expert or "expert" found through Google or AI. It is vital to make sense of the text and current events through your own perspective and understanding).

Requirements:

Part I:

- Read and comprehend the amendments to the US Constitution. You can find the amendments in your textbook, online or use the book, *What does the Constitution Actually Say* by Ben Sheehan to interpret the amendments. The book helps put the amendments in easy to understand language.
- Create a hand-written outline of the amendments to the US Constitution (the outline to complete is on the next page- please print it out).
- There will be a quiz on the amendments on the second day of school.

Part II: Current Events Articles

To complete this assignment, select three news articles from the website <https://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news>. The articles must be from different weeks during the summer and different sides (one from the right, one from the center, one from the left)

For each article, do the following:

1. Give the name and author of the article. State which side it is from (right, center or left).
2. Summarize the article. Include the branch of government that the article pertains to (executive/president - legislative/congress - judicial/courts)
3. Discuss why the issue in the article is important, whether there is a problem to be solved, and whether there is a solution that the government can or should provide.
4. Your opinion of the article itself. In other words, is it positive, negative, biased, etc. Do you support or oppose the opinions expressed in the article? Why or Why not?
5. Your summary for each article should be 1.5 pages, double spaced and 12 font.

Amendment 1	
Amendment 2	
Amendment 3	
Amendment 4	
Amendment 5	
Amendment 6	
Amendment 7	
Amendment 8	
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Amendment 27	

ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER!! 😊 🏄