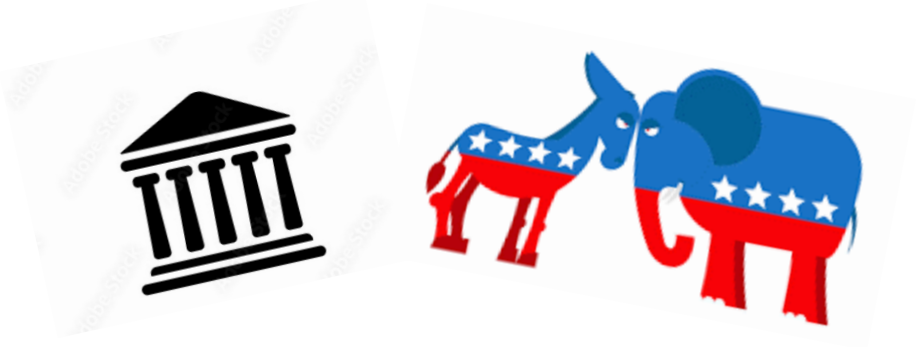
AP US Government and Politics – Summer Assignment



Dear Advanced Placement U.S. Government & Politics Student,

Welcome to Advanced Placement U.S. Government & Politics! I hope next year's course will open your eyes and ears to our governmental system, political environment, and your presumed role in it. Next year will be an exciting year for you all, and I am excited to have you in class!

<u>If you are taking the class in the Fall:</u> Please complete the following activities over the summer.

<u>If you are taking the class in the Spring:</u> Please complete the activities in the three weeks prior to the start of the second semester.

According to the College Board's course description,

> "**Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. [Students] will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, [students] will complete a political science research or applied civics project.**"

This course will require all of us to push ourselves to do our best work, not just enough to "skate by." Independent reading and current events analysis is essential to succeeding in the AP U.S. Government & Politics course.

The AP Government summer assignment will lay a great foundation for our first unit of study and will allow you to become an informed and engaged citizen participant. This assignment will ask you to both study for a Constitution exam given on the first day of our class, and to read and analyze current news from various points over the summer/first semester.

<u>The Constitution Study Guide is meant to help you prepare for the Constitution Exam given on the first day of class, and the Current Events Journals are to be turned in at the beginning of our first class.</u>

Best Regards,

Mrs. Gretta Jelinek (gjelinek@jca-online.org)

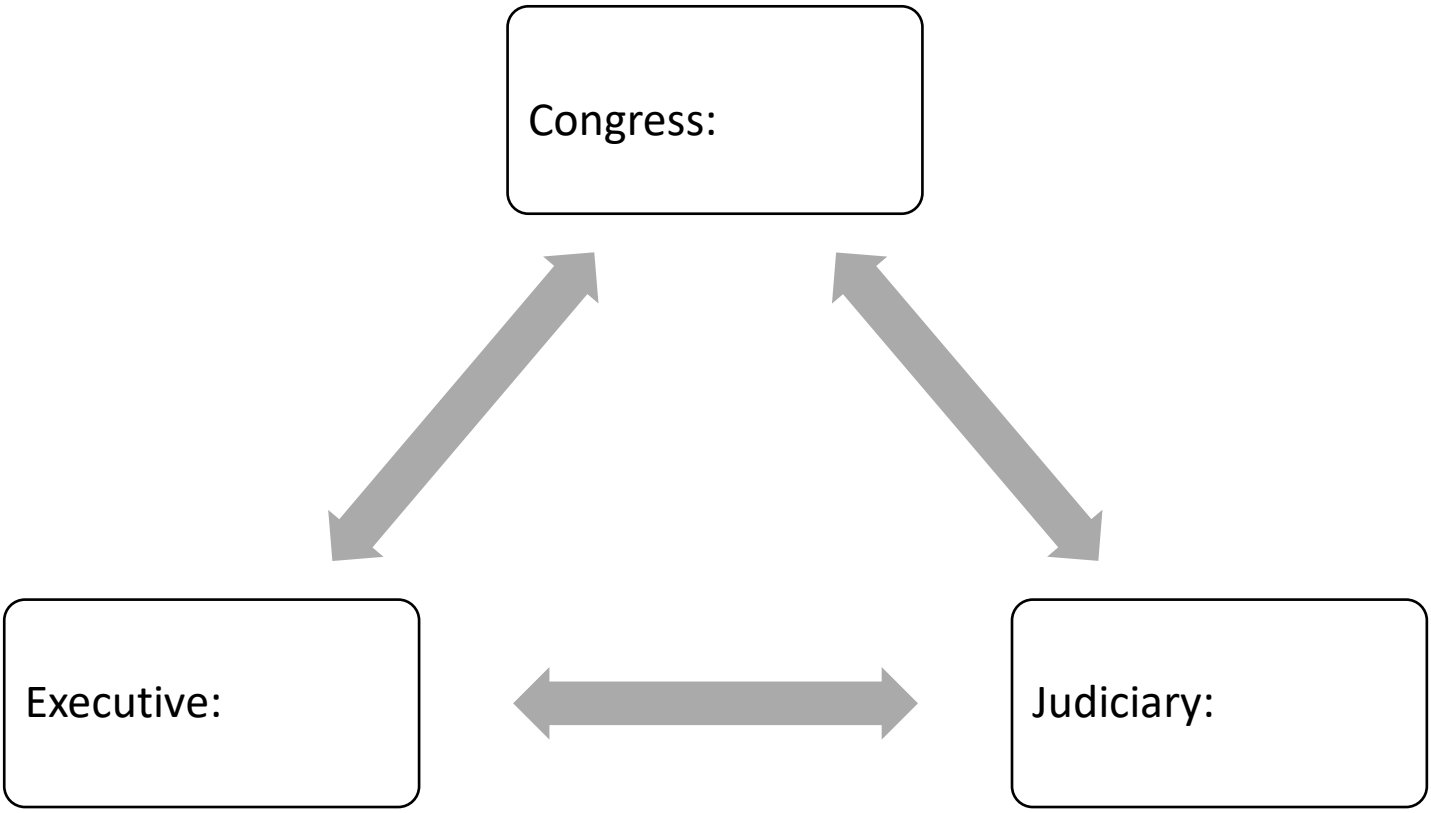
Part 1: Constitution Study Guide

The US Constitution (find the entire transcription by clicking the link or going to archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript) is an *EXTREMELY* important document for everyone in this country, especially AP GoPo students! Understanding it will provide a great foundation for our class. Therefore, you will READ IT, KNOW IT and LOVE IT by the time you enter our class in August. While you do not have to turn this study guide in, you will be tested on this material on the first day of class.

Task #1: Structure of the Constitution — Read each article and summarize the general purpose or subject of the article. Use words, pictures, symbols, color, etc. in your summary. Then, answer the analysis questions.

Article Number and Title	Summary/General Purpose or Subject
Article I	
Article II	
Article III	
Article IV	
Article V	
Article VI	
Article VII	

1) Using Articles I, II, & III, describe how each branch can check the other branches (Be specific! Really lay out how each branch and each check/balance they have over the other two).



2) Why do you suppose the founders designed our federal government this way?

Task #2: The Amendments — Briefly describe each amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Then, answer the analysis questions

Amendment	Brief Description of the amendment (all parts)
1	
2	
3	
4	
5 (many parts!)	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	

14 (Many Parts!)	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	

3) What are the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution collectively known as and why were they added to the Constitution?

4) Identify the three amendments that were passed in the years immediately after the Civil War. What were the goals of these amendments?

5) Describe three amendments that extended suffrage to new groups of people and briefly explain the historical context/events that likely led to the passage and ratification of these amendments.

Task#3: Important Constitutional Clauses— The following are important clauses listed in the Constitution or the Amendments. For each, describe the clause in your own words, cite where it is located in the Constitution **(Article #, Section #, Clause #)** and explain why the clause is so important.

Constitutional Clause	Description & Citation	Importance/Significance
Full Faith & Credit Clause		
Commerce Clause		
Supremacy Clause		
Necessary and Proper Clause (Elastic Clause)		
General Welfare Clause		
Establishment Clause		
Free-Exercise Clause		
Free-Speech Clause		
Due Process Clause		
Equal Protection Clause		

Part 2: Current Events Journal



Task:
Students are to follow current events over the summer and get a head start on understanding how the U.S. government/political system operates. Students will need to select a total of **three news articles from three separate weeks over the summer (If in second semester AP Gov, choose three articles from three separate weeks over the first semester)**, and **write a 1 single-spaced page reflection for each article using 12pt. Times New Roman font (a total of 3 pages)**.

- Students should look for articles from different sources that emphasize any ***ONE of the following constitutional principles/concepts*** **from our first unit of study**: federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, judicial review, elastic clause, the supremacy clause and the commerce clause.

- The articles can ***focus on any of the following topics***: the Congress, the Supreme Court, the President, a government agency, state governments, foreign policy, domestic policy, homeland security, immigration, taxes, healthcare reform, education, judicial/cabinet appointments, economic policy, interest/lobbyist groups, political parties, election-related news, polls. (This is not an inclusive list.)

Each current events reflection **MUST** include:

- A summary of the article.
- The impact of this event/decision on the US government and populace.
- The possible consequences of this event/decision (positive, negative, or neutral).
- A clear connection to **AT LEAST 1 of the constitutional principles/concepts** listed above.
- An evaluation of bias, if any, in the article.

Students must clearly address each item above in their reflection. Students need to include a citation in **MLA Format at** the end of each reflection. Students must pay attention to the date of the article as the articles must be from **three different weeks** over the summer/fall semester. (IE. 1 article from July 13, 1 article
from July 29, and 1 article from August 12). Remember the goal of the summer assignment is to better understand how our governmental system operates, so keep that in mind when selecting articles.