

AP GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Summer Assignment

Google Classroom Class Code: 7geihn2n

The Social Studies Department is excited that you have chosen to take AP United States Government and Politics in the coming school year. Like all AP classes, AP Gov/Pol is a challenging course that will require you to exert your best effort. However, you will be supported along the way, and if you remain diligent and focused you will find the workload to be manageable and the experience to be rewarding.

In order to be prepared for the transition to class, we have compiled the following assignment for you to complete over the summer. It serves as an introduction to the kinds of tasks you will see when we arrive in September, and it also gives us a head start on the content which is ample and difficult to cover in the time afforded by the school year.

*PART I: SUPREME COURT CASE CHART

The AP GovPol course has 14 required cases that students **must** know for the AP exam - if the test references the case, you must have immediate recall of the facts pertaining to it. To lighten your load during the school year, you will research these cases over the summer. The list of required cases can be found below:

REQUIRED SUPREME COURT CASES

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| 1. <i>Marbury v. Madison</i> (1803) | 9. <i>New York Times Co. v. United States</i> (1971) |
| 2. <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i> (1819) | 10. <i>Wisconsin v. Yoder</i> (1972) |
| 3. <i>Schenck v. United States</i> (1919) | 11. <i>Shaw v. Reno</i> (1993) |
| 4. <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> (1954) | 12. <i>United States v. Lopez</i> (1995) |
| 5. <i>Baker v. Carr</i> (1962) | 13. <i>McDonald v. Chicago</i> (2010) |
| 6. <i>Engel v. Vitale</i> (1962) | 14. <i>Citizens United v. Federal Election</i> |
| 7. <i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i> (1963) | <i>Commission</i> (2010) |
| 8. <i>Tinker v. Des Moines Independent</i> | |
| <i>Community School District</i> (1969) | |

For each of the cases, you must find the information listed below. Start with [Oyez](#) and [Case Briefs](#). Many law schools also have great resources, such as [Cornell University Law School](#). **Do not use Wikipedia!** (While it can sometimes be helpful, you need to familiarize yourself with the legal setups/language)

1. Identify and list the Plaintiff(s) and the Defendant(s)
2. Describe what the Issue is (Why did it make it to SCOTUS? What is the legal/Constitutional question?)
3. Provide brief facts about the case (What is it about? Sum it up in a sentence or two.)
4. Court's Decision/Rule of Law (What was the holding & reasoning? Again, just a sentence or two.)
5. Citation (Where did you get your information? Cut and paste the link - it does not have to be in MLA format. This will enable you to refer back to the source as needed.)

To complete this assignment, use a Doc on Google Classroom. You can create a list, a chart, the Doc provided to you, or something similar. Regardless, one of the skills that the class focuses on is analyzing cases and making meaning from them, so it is imperative that you use your own words and ideas. Do not copy and paste your work from sources or other students. As with any assignment, academic integrity rules apply.

Due Date: The first day of class

*PART II: CURRENT EVENTS - “HERO OR HACK?”

AP Gov/Pol has units dedicated to *American Political Ideologies* and *Beliefs and Political Participation*. The College Board explains that American media plays a large role in the shaping of these facets of democracy. As a consequence, you will have to become accustomed to interpreting current events through a political lens. The “Hero or Hack” log about United States (*not international*) politics in the news will help you do that.

You must have two (2) entries: one for July and one for August. Your log will be done in a “Hero or Hack” format, meaning you decide - based on what is reported - if the politician or political decision reported on should be considered heroic or hackish. You must include the following:

1. Summary - In your own words, what is the story about? Providing clear summaries of political stories is important to developing the way we will discuss American government and politics.
2. Citation - Provide a link to your source (article, video, political cartoon, etc.).
3. Opinion - Why do you think the politician or political decision is a hero or hack? Explain in detail referencing specific reasoning. You must get into the habit of citing clear examples to support your logic.

Unlike the Supreme Court cases, this assignment should not be handled with a graphic organizer. Instead, you should draft detailed paragraphs for each entry. Please create ONE Google document for both entries, but do not paste large chunks of text into it, as this is a common sign of plagiarism. Instead, your revision history should show repeated edits. Once completed, upload this assignment to Google Classroom.

Due Date: The first day of class

Should you have any questions along the way, you can feel free to contact me via email at tpatterson@oceanschools.org. I will be checking my email over the summer and I will do my best to assist you in any way that I can.