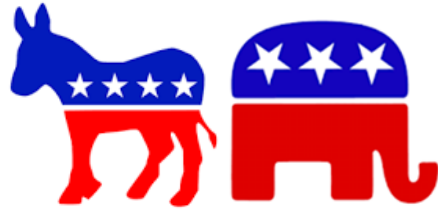


# AP Government & Politics Summer Assignment

## 2022



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

Welcome to **Advanced Placement U.S. Government & Politics!** I am so pleased you have enrolled in this class and we 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, not only because it will be your senior year, but because it promises to be a very heated political season.

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."

The College Board redesigned the course curriculum framework and exam in 2018 with the help of many stakeholders including AP teachers, higher education faculty as well as the public at-large and experts from across the political spectrum. 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.

This summer assignment will serve as a great foundation for our first unit of study and will allow you to become an informed and engaged citizen participant. Many of you may not currently read national newspapers like the New York Times or news magazines such as Newsweek or US News and World Report. You may not even watch nightly news television programs on CBS, ABC, CNN or Fox News.

This must change immediately for you to be fully prepared for our class. If you have not yet done these things on a regular basis, don't panic, there will be time for you to get up to speed. You only need to have the desire to want to learn about our government and political system. With that desire, we as a team will work towards our common goal of improving our democracy by creating a more informed populace.

Enjoy your summer and stay engaged in terms of what is happening in our country and world. The summer assignment will be due on **Wednesday, August, 31, 2022.**

Best Regards,

**Mrs. Maria "Emily" Rodriguez (emily.rodriguez@browardschools.com)**

## Part 1: Constitutional Scavenger Hunt

The US Constitution is an **EXTREMELY** important document for everyone in this country, especially AP GoPo students! Understanding it will provide a great foundation for this class. Therefore, you will READ IT, KNOW IT and LOVE IT by the time you enter our class in August. This work will be especially useful for Unit 1! DO YOUR OWN WORK – DO NOT COPY FROM FRIENDS

**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. Answer the analysis questions.

Read the Constitution here: <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution>

Article # and Title	Summary/General Purpose of Article (What structure of government, rules, processes did the Article create?)
<b>Article I</b>	
	List the powers specifically given to Congress in Article I:
<b>Article II</b>	
	List the powers specifically given to the President in Article II:
<b>Article III</b>	
	List the powers specifically given to the Judicial Branch in Article III:
<b>Article IV</b>	
<b>Article V</b>	
<b>Article VI</b>	

<b>Article VII</b>	
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- 1) Using Articles I, II, & III, describe how each branch checks the other branches.
- 2) Why do you suppose the Framers of the Constitution designed our federal government this way?

**Task #2: The Amendments**—Briefly describe each amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Answer the analysis questions.

Amendment	
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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 (voting rights) to new groups of people. What is the amendment and which group does it benefit?

**Task#3: Important Constitutional Clauses— It is important to know the constitutional clauses found in the Constitution. For each, describe the clause in your own words and cite where it is located in the Constitution (Article #, Section #), and explain why the clause is so important.**

<b>Constitutional Clause</b>	<b>Description and Citation</b>	<b>Importance/Significance</b>
<b>Full Faith &amp; Credit Clause</b>		
<b>Commerce Clause</b>		
<b>Supremacy Clause</b>		
<b>Necessary and Proper Clause (aka Elastic Clause)</b>		
<b>Establishment Clause</b>		
<b>Free Exercise Clause</b>		
<b>Freedom of Speech Clause</b>		
<b>Due Process Clause of the 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment What is the difference?</b>		
<b>Equal Protection Clause of the 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment What is the differerence?</b>		

## Part 2: Current Events Journal

**Task:** This summer you are asked to focus on political news! You will keep track of current events over the summer and get a head start on understanding how the U.S. government/political system operates and responds to issues. You will need to select a total of **three** news articles from **three separate weeks** over the summer, and write a one page, double spaced 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** such as: 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: 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 brief 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.
- Citation of the article using MLA format

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.

Remember the goal of the summer assignment is to better understand how our governmental system operates, so keep that in mind when selecting articles.

 <a href="http://www.politico.com/">www.politico.com/</a>	
 <a href="http://abcnews.go.com/Politics">abcnews.go.com/Politics</a>	 <a href="http://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news">www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news</a>
 <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/">www.washingtonpost.com/politics/</a>	 <a href="http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/politics">www.washingtonexaminer.com/politics</a>
 <a href="http://www.cnn.com/politics">www.cnn.com/politics</a>	 <a href="http://www.foxnews.com/politics">www.foxnews.com/politics</a>

