

Advanced Placement Government and Politics 2017-2018

AP US Government Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP US Government! This course will consist of a college-level survey of American politics and government. You should be prepared to work hard. There will be difficult and complex readings and concepts to analyze, and the course is meant to prepare you to excel on the AP US Government and Politics Exam, which you will take in May. Standards will be high and cannot be altered to suit individuals, so you should expect to do college-level work. In preparation for the course, you will need to complete the following summer assignment:

1. **Sign up for Remind!**
2. **Sign up for Schoology!**
3. **Begin working on your assignment! News Journaling and US Constitution Study Guide**
4. **Review your assignment before school starts!**
5. **Go through the Quizlet on the Constitution!**
6. **Be ready for a Summer Assignment assessment when school starts!**

Current Events Article Analysis and Journal

AP Government is more directly related to current events than any course you will take in high school. Everything that we will study relates to how politics and government works in modern America. Accordingly, knowledge of current political and governmental affairs will significantly help you to understand the things we study, and will, in fact, be **necessary** to succeed in the course. If you know what is going on in the country with respect to politics and government, you **will** do better in the course. In lieu of a summer reading assignment, students will complete the following assignment, due the first Monday of school. The intent of this assignment is to encourage students to begin following and make a habit of looking into current events related to United States government and politics.

What you will need to succeed:

You should follow major current events by doing one or more of the following on as close to a daily basis as possible:

- Read either the print or online version of a major newspaper.
- Watch a national/international news broadcast (CNN, MSNBC, FOXNews, PBS, ABC, CBS, NBC) – **not a local news broadcast.**
- Read major newsmagazines or political journals (*Time*, *Newsweek*, *US News and WorldReport*, *The Economist*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *Weekly Standard*, *National Review*)

During the course of the summer (beginning the week of June 8th and ending the week of August 2nd), keep a **current events journal**. You will fill in about the **major event or events in American government and/or politics** from each week. You should describe the event/s, and in the **second paragraph**, you should analyze the significance of it/them and state any opinions, thoughts or analysis that you might have about it/them. You must intelligently discuss one particularly important issue as described in the Journal chart. Your journal should deal with issues that are of **significant importance to American politics and government**. Such things include what the President is up to, what is happening on the campaign trail, what Congress is debating or legislation that they are passing, constitutional issues or major federal court decisions concerning them, debates over political issues in America, international crises or foreign policy issues that somehow affect the US or that our government must deal with, etc. **With each entry, you must include a list of news media sources you used during that week** (see above for possible option). Be prepared to discuss your journal entries the first days of school.

- At least 2 NEWS STORIES **must be** from June 2015
- At least 2 NEWS STORIES **must be** from July 2015
- At least 2 NEWS STORIES **must be** from August 2015

Remind:

Pick a way to receive messages for 17-18 AP Go Po:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/ace98a

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



The image shows a smartphone screen displaying a sign-up form for 'Join 17-18 AP Go Po'. The browser address bar shows 'rmd.at/ace98a'. The form has two input fields: 'Full Name' with the placeholder text 'First and Last Name', and 'Phone Number or Email Address' with the placeholder text '(555) 555-5555'.

Schoology.com Access Code:

THC7J-J5ZRD

Quizlet:

<https://quizlet.com/88897647/ap-us-government-politics-summer-assignment-us-constitution-flash-cards/>

<p><u>POLITICAL</u> News Story Title:</p>	<p>News Source:</p>	<p>Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):</p>
<p>News Story Summary (50-100 words):</p>	<p>Date of News Item:</p>	
	<p>Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):</p>	

<u>ECONOMIC</u> News Story Title:	News Source:		Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words)
	Date of News Item:		
	Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):		
News Story Summary (50-100 words):			

<u>SOCIAL / DOMESTIC</u> Issue Story Title:	News Source:	Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
News Story Summary (50-100 words):	Date of News Item:	
	Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):	

<u>FOREIGN POLICY</u> News Story Title:	News Source:	Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
News Story Summary (50-100 words):	Date of News Item: Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):	

<p><u>SUPREME COURT</u> News Story Title:</p>	<p>News Source:</p>		<p>Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):</p>
<p>News Story Summary (50-100 words):</p>	<p>Date of News Item:</p>	<p>Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):</p>	

<u>STATE or LOCAL</u> News Story Title:	News Source:	Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
News Story Summary (50-100 words):	Date of News Item:	
	Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):	

<u>DEMOCRAT</u> News Story Title:	News Source:		Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
News Story Summary (50-100 words):	Date of News Item:		
	Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):		

<u>REPUBLICAN</u> News Story Title:	News Source:	Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
News Story Summary (50-100 words):	Date of News Item:	
	Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):	

Name _____

Class Period _____

AP Government
Summer Assignment #1 2009/2010
THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Available at: www.constitutioncenter.org

Directions: Read the US Constitution and complete the following questions directly on this handout. We will discuss this the first day of class and you will be responsible for this information on the first test.

PART I - THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. Read each article of the Constitution. Summarize the general purpose or subject of each article in one sentence in the chart below.

Article I	
Article II	
Article III	
Article IV	
Article V	
Article VI	
Article VII	

2. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the House?

3. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the Senate?

4. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for the President?

5. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or to office holders are called *express* powers.

a. Identify two express powers of the president.

b. What are the express powers of the vice president?

c. Identify two express powers of Congress.

6. According to the principle of checks and balances, each branch of the government must have control over the other branches. Look at the first three articles of the Constitution and identify one of each type of checks and balances. Indicate where each power is listed in the Constitution.

a. A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch: _____

This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____

b. A power that the executive branch holds over the judicial branch. _____

This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____

c. A power that the legislative branch holds over the executive branch. _____

This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____

d. A power that the legislative branch holds over the judicial branch. _____

This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____

e. A power that the judicial branch holds over the executive branch. _____

This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____

f. A power that the judicial branch holds over the legislative branch. _____

This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution _____

7. According to Article I of the Constitution, who has the power to declare war?

8. What power does the Constitution give the President in the area of war?

PART II - MAJORITY AND SUPERMAJORITY

The Constitution requires a simple majority for some actions and a supermajority for others. A simple majority means more than half, while supermajority requirements can involve a 2/3 majority or a 3/4 majority. Most elections in the United States require a plurality, or the most votes, but not necessarily a majority.

1. a. What bodies have the power to override a presidential veto? _____
b. What margin is required to override a presidential veto? _____
c. Where in the Constitution is the veto power described? _____
 2. a. What body has the power to ratify treaties? _____
b. What margin is required to ratify treaties? _____
c. Where in the Constitution is the ratification power described? _____
 3. *To impeach* means “to bring charges against” or “to indict”.
a. What body has the power to impeach the president? _____
b. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described? _____
 4. a. What body has the power to convict the president of charges brought against him in the impeachment process and thereby remove him from the presidency? _____
b. What margin is required to convict and remove a president? _____
c. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described? _____
 5. a. What body has the power to accept or reject a president’s nominations to the Supreme Court?

b. What margins is required to elevate a president’s nominee to a seat on the Court? _____
c. Where in the Constitution are judicial nominations described? _____
 6. a. If no candidate for the presidency wins a simple majority of the total number of electoral votes, what body has the power to choose the president? _____
b. What margin is required to choose the president? _____
c. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described? (Hint: there are two parts)
 7. The Constitution specifies a three-fourths majority for just one process. What?

 8. See Article VI. Explain the supremacy clause in your own words. _____

 9. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be proposed? _____

 10. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified?

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Part III - THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Some parts of the Constitution require a simple majority, others a supermajority, while still others protect citizens from the will of the majority. The first ten amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights protects citizens from the will of the majority. In other words, no majority could vote to take these rights away. Read each amendment to the Constitution and answer the questions below.

1. Outline the general purpose of the first 10 Amendments.

Amendment 1	
Amendment 2	
Amendment 3	
Amendment 4	
Amendment 5	
Amendment 6	
Amendment 7	
Amendment 8	
Amendment 9	
Amendment 10	

11. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of women? _____

12. Summarize what this amendment(s) of the Constitution says _____

13. Which amendments (s) of the Constitution protect the rights of African Americans? _____

14. How were US Senators chosen before the Seventeenth Amendment? _____

15. The Twenty-Fifth Amendment describes the sequence of events that would install the vice president as acting president against the will of the president. Outline that sequence of events.

16. How many times is the word *privacy* mentioned in the Constitution (articles and amendments)?
