

AP U.S. Government and Politics Summer Assignment
Stratford Public Schools

DUE: Friday, September 10, 2021

Congratulations on your enrollment in Advanced Placement Government and Politics! We would like to welcome you to this rigorous and rewarding program. The AP Test will be in May 2022.

- The [College Board](#) guidelines steer our course outline, topics, pace, assessment models, and scoring rubrics. As such, we have an ambitious agenda ahead of us.
- Our commitment to this rich curriculum necessitates preparation and study over the summer.

Below you will find the summer assignment for this course. This is a college level course, and completion of early assignments indicate that you're reading for information and are prepared with the content knowledge that you will use in preparation for thinking more critically about historical topics. In this course we will combine content knowledge and historical thinking skills to construct thoughtful free-response questions at the collegiate level. This material will be used to jump start our study of the Constitution, the most important document in our government. Skill development can be fostered during the course; motivation is up to you! Looking forward to seeing you in the Fall!

Questions? Contact Ms. Ruble (SHS) rublec@stratk12.org Mr. Moore (BHS) moored@stratk12.org or Ms. Carroll (BHS) carrollm@stratk12.org

The AP Government & Politics summer assignment consists of two parts:

Part I: Constitution Review - due Friday, Sept. 10th

- Complete the Constitution Scavenger Hunt using the United States Constitution to answer the questions. Here is one possible link to use for a copy of the United States Constitution (<https://constitutioncenter.org/media/files/constitution.pdf>).

Part II: Current Events - due Friday, Sept. 10th

- For four of the nine weeks in the summer, you will complete a current events journal entry about a current national, political, and government event.
- Choose four different weeks to complete one journal entries (1 article and 1 entry per week for a total of four entries over the summer),
- Each entry must be based on news from that day and entered in your own words. Ideally, your journal will be typed on Google Docs. If you do not have access to a computer, please write a handwritten journal (organized in one notebook/binder by date). Copying and pasting articles will result in a ZERO for the assignment.
- Each entry should include:
 - Date
 - Headline
 - One paragraph summary (at least 5 sentences) ** do not copy/paste story
 - Source and citation of story (Please use the attached format for the Works Cited- <https://style.mla.org/files/2016/04/practice-template.pdf>). (If you can play a video, here is a sample of how to do the Works Cited. <https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide-video/>)
 - Briefly identify how the current event relates to one of the branches of government as outlined in the U.S. Constitution.
- Acceptable sources:
 - National newspapers or their websites (Washington Post, NY Times, Economist, Wall Street Journal, CT Post, Hartford Courant)
 - Websites of major news outlets (CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, BBC, Time)
- Unacceptable sources:
 - Blogs, personal websites, any social media (Facebook, Snapchat, etc)

Name _____

Date _____

Constitution Scavenger Hunt

1. How many Articles are there in the Constitution?

2. Which Article spells out the powers of the Legislative Branch?

3. What two groups make up the Legislative Branch?

4. Briefly describe what the Legislative Branch does.

5. Which Article spells out the powers of the Executive Branch?

6. List positions/roles listed under the Executive Branch.

7. Briefly describe what the Executive Branch does.

8. Which Article spells out the powers of the Judicial Branch?

9. What is the name of the main group that makes up the Judicial Branch?

10. Briefly describe what the Judicial Branch does.

11. Write a one sentence summary of what you understand about Article 4.

12. Write a one sentence summary of what you understand about Article 5.

13. Write a one sentence summary of what you understand about Article 6.

14. Write a one sentence summary of what you understand about Article 7.

15. How many amendments are in the Bill of Rights?

16. How many additional amendments have been made?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____ Teacher _____

Rubric for Journal Entries for AP U.S. Government—Summer 2021

Grading Criteria	Excellent	Acceptable	Minimal	Unacceptable
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summary is concise, accurately reflects entire article, and is in your own words. ● Article is from an acceptable source. ● Relation of current event to government/ U.S. Constitution is thorough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summary is moderately thorough and in your own words. ● Article is from an acceptable source. ● Relation of current event to government/ U.S. Constitution is loose but acceptable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summary is general and missing key points and may not be entirely in your own words. ● Article is not from an acceptable source. ● Current event is partially relevant to government/ U.S. Constitution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summary is too general to determine what the article is about and/or is not in your own words. ● Article source is not listed. ● Inaccurately related to government/ U.S. Constitution.
Idea Development and Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Excellent use of examples and details to support relation to government/ U.S. Constitution in an organized way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good reliance on article to support relation to government/ U.S. Constitution in a mostly organized way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incomplete development of examples or details to support relation to government/ U.S. Constitution which may lack clear organization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ideas not clearly stated or developed. ● Entry is unstructured.
Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flawless spelling and punctuation. ● Clear citation included in correct format. ● Accurate date and headline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Few or no spelling errors. ● Some minor punctuation mistakes. ● Citation included. ● Date and headline included, but one is inaccurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Several spelling and punctuation errors. ● Inaccurate citation. ● Missing date or headline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many instances of incorrect spelling and punctuation. ● Lacks a citation. ● Missing date and headline.