

**AP Government and Politics
Summer Assignment
Mr. Russell**

Welcome to AP Government and Politics, I look forward to a great year with you. These assignments will assist in building on your prior knowledge of American Government and Politics, while creating the foundation for a year of debate, inquiry, and learning about past and current trends, debates, and changes in American Democracy.

This is an exciting class that will allow us to look at the big picture of government and the way it shapes our community and society. The purpose of this summer assignment is to get a jumpstart on the curriculum. The summer assignment will also provide us with an opportunity to go into more depth on certain topics throughout the year because you will have some background knowledge of the constitution and current policy and policymakers. These assignments will be due the first week of school in August, and you will have other accountability measures over these assignments (quizzes, discussions, and writings).

There will be **three** items you are working on **and two** you are turning in to me.

TURNED IN:

- *Assignment 1:* Reading and Study Questions on the Constitution of the United States (DUE: 8/24/18)
- *Assignment 2:* Current Events (one per week) – see instructions on next page. (DUE: First Day of School)

NOT TURNED IN – To be used as a study aid for a quiz (see instructions on next page)

- *Assignment 3:* Vocabulary and Government Organizational Responses (Quiz on 8/24/18)

Late assignments will not be accepted. The only exception will be those students that enrolled new to our school during the summer (these students will have a modified due date).

Please purchase the textbook for the course:

MAIN TEXT: You have your choice - hardcopy or eText. I would recommend eText because of the price. I will use MyPoliSciLab for some assignments and multimedia. YOU ONLY NEED TO PURCHASE ONE

eText: *Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy* - 2016 Presidential Election -- Access Code for etextbook and MyPoliSciLab, 17th Edition; Edwards, III, Wattenberg, and Howell. Price: \$50.00
ISBN: 9781323488713

Print Copy: *Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy* - 2016 Presidential Election, 17th Edition; Edwards, III, Wattenberg, and Howell. Price: \$139.00
ISBN: 9780134586571

How to Order: In order to get the best price, call Pearson customer service at **1-800-848-9500**. Be sure to tell them you are with Denver School of the Arts, and the ISBN and price you were given for the option you purchase (found above). These prices are negotiated with the DPS Pearson representative.

On the first day of school, I will give you a sheet to explain redeeming your access code for the eText and joining MyPoliSciLab. If you want to sign up before that time, email me your name and period you have AP Gov, and I will send it to you electronically. Also, if you have any questions or issues – please contact me at the email below.

You can also search on Amazon, or other web based bookstores to find a used copy or to rent a copy, but those will be a bit harder to come by for the 17th edition since this is a newer edition. If you purchase an older edition from another student or amazon, that is okay, just try not to go older than the 16th edition (used with Mr. Fox for the 2017-2018 school year) – prior to that, there may be many differences in the text.

I will be available by email during the summer but please do not expect an immediate response; it may take a few days. Good luck, have fun, and we'll see you in August!

Mr. Russell

Email: crussellds@gmail.com

Assignment #1: Read, Review, and Study the Constitution of the United States.

Read the U.S. Constitution and complete the attached reading guide. We will have an assessment activity within the first week of class to see how well you know and understand the document based on your responses to the questions. You can find a copy of the U.S. Constitution in several places – Here is an annotated copy from Cornell Law School: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/constitution.table.html> - preamble.

As you read, complete the attached reading guide. Your responses can be typed or handwritten, and they will be **submitted on the first Friday of our first week together.**

Assignment #2: Current Events Project

To stay current on issues related to your government during the summer, I would like you to follow and reflect upon current events. You need a total of **six** current events – but I would like them spread out through the summer, not from one day or week. Try to complete one current event per week to spread them apart. For each current event, print or keep the article if it is print to attach to your reflection. If you choose a televised news program or online article you cannot print, include an MLA citation at the end of the reflection. Reflections should be typed and one page double-spaced at most. Each reflection should include:

- The impact of this event/decision/topic on the U.S. Government
- The consequences of this event/decision/topic (good/bad)
- The impact of this event/decision/topic on individual groups within society.
- Is there an element of bias to the news story? If so, what impact does it have on the viewer and topic? If not, how do you know it is completely objective?

Your articles or news stories can be from any of the following areas: **Foreign Policy** (U.S. Relations with foreign governments); **National/Domestic Policy** (Examples could include: Homeland Security, Immigration Policy, Economic Policy – Taxes, Education Policy, Healthcare Reform, Cabinet or Judicial Nominations, Hearings...)

Possible Print Sources: *Time*, *Newsweek*, *US News and World Report*, *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Christian Science Monitor*

Possible TV Sources: *Morning Joe*, *Meet the Press*, *The Sean Hannity Show*, *Hardball with Chris Matthews*, *The Five*, *The Situation Room*, *Fox and Friends*

****Remember – Part of this assignment is looking for media bias. Please remember this when searching a TV news network or print story.**

Due Date for Current Events: The first day of class

Assignment #3: Vocabulary and Government Organizational Chart

On the next page, you will find some key terms and definitions as well as an organizational chart for the three branches of government. Please create a study aid and memorize the key terms and definitions, and create, study, and memorize the organizational chart. You will have a closed note quiz on the first Friday of our first week together over the terms and organizational chart. The study aid and organizational chart will not be turned in because the assessment over these items will be the quiz.

Vocabulary Terms and Definitions: This is just a start for new terms and definitions. Create a study aid to help memorize these terms and definitions. You will have a closed-note quiz on these terms the first Friday of our first week back in school. Study aids will not be turned in because the assessment over these terms will be the quiz.

1. Balancing the ticket: occurs when a presidential nominee chooses a vice presidential running mate who has different qualities in order to attract more votes for the ticket.
2. Bully pulpit: the president's use of his prestige and visibility to guide or enthuse the American public
3. Checks and balances: system in which each branch of government can limit the power of the other two branches, e.g., presidential veto of a congressional law.
4. Cloture: Senate motion to end a filibuster that requires a 3/5 vote.
5. Entitlements: federal benefit payments to which recipients have a legal right, e.g., Social Security. Also known as uncontrollables.
6. Executive order: presidential rule or regulation that has the force of law.
7. Factions: term used by Madison to denote what we now call interest groups.
8. Filibuster: nonstop Senate debate that prevents a bill from coming to a vote.
9. Gerrymandering: redrawing district lines to favor one party at the expense of the other.
10. Impeachment: House action that formally charges an official with wrongdoing. Conviction and Removal requires 2/3 vote from the Senate.
11. Impoundment: refusal of a President to spend money that has been appropriated by Congress.
12. Incorporation: applying the Bill of Rights to the states. A "total incorporation" view is that the states must obey all provisions of the Bill of Rights because of the due process clause of the 14th Amendment. A "selective incorporation" view is that the Bill of Rights is to be applied to the states in a more gradual manner on a case by case basis.
13. Incumbent: an officeholder who is seeking re-election.
14. Legislative veto: process in which Congress overturned rules and regulations proposed by executive branch agencies. Struck down in 1983.
15. Line item veto: power of most governors (and President Clinton for only a few years) to delete or reduce funding in a bill on a line by line basis. Declared unconstitutional by Supreme Court.
16. Lobbying: attempting to influence policy makers.
17. Political Action Committee (PAC): an interest group that raises funds and donates to election campaigns.
18. Political culture: the widely shared beliefs, values, and norms that citizens share about their government.
19. Political socialization: process in which one acquires his/her political beliefs.
20. Senatorial courtesy: tradition in which the President consults with the Senators within a state in which an appointment is to be made.

Government Organizational Chart: Find the individual currently holding the following positions and memorize the individuals and their titles. You will have a quiz on this the first Friday of the first week back to school. You will not turn in your notes for this assignment because the assessment will be the quiz.

<u>Executive Branch</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President • Vice-President • Chief of Staff • Members of the President's Cabinet • National Security Advisor

<u>Legislative Branch</u>
<p>House of Representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker of the House • Majority Leader • Minority Leader • YOUR current representative and Political Affiliation (*See note Below) <p>Senate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Pro Tempore • Majority Leader • Minority Leader • Colorado Senators <p>*You need to know your district in Colorado to find this info.</p>

<u>Judicial Branch</u>
<p>Supreme Court: List all 9 justices -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find information on how long they have served. • Identify their lean (conservative, liberal, swing)

Using a copy of the U.S. Constitution (link for one copy found on page 2 – but can be found several places online) complete the following. Answers can be typed or handwritten.

PREAMBLE:

- 1) How does the opening of the Preamble express popular sovereignty (power)?
- 2) List the six (6) goals stated in the Preamble.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.

ARTICLE ONE:

- 1) Which Branch is described in Article One?
- 2) What did Section 1 of Article One provide for?
- 3) Who are “the electors” of the members of the House of Representatives? What are the three requirements for being in the House of Representatives?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- 4) What is the term of office for a member of the House of Representatives?
- 5) What is the basis for the number of Representatives?
- 6) Which House has the power of impeachment?
- 7) How many Senators are there from each state?
- 8) How long is the term of office for a Senator?
- 9) List the qualifications for being a Senator.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- 10) In clause 4, who is President of the Senate?
- 11) When does he get to vote?
- 12) What is the substitute position for when the President of the Senate is absent?
- 13) What power does the Senate have in impeachments?
- 14) Who presides if it is the President who is being tried for impeachment?
- 15) What percentage of vote is needed to find someone guilty of impeachment?
- 16) In Clause 6, what is the penalty for conviction for impeachment?
- 17) How can a Bill become law if the President vetoes it?
- 18) What percentage of both Houses of Congress must agree to override a veto?
- 19) When can a bill become a law without the President’s signature?
- 20) What happens after ten days if the President doesn’t sign a bill?

ARTICLE TWO:

- 1) Which Branch does Article Two describe?

- 2) Who is the head of the Executive Branch?
- 3) What is the term of office for the President?
- 4) How is the number of Electors to the Electoral College determined (clause 2), and how are they appointed?
- 5) Who specifically cannot serve as an Elector?
- 6) Clause 3 was altered by the 12th Amendment. Refer to the 12th Amendment and clause 3 to answer these questions.
 - Where are electoral votes counted?
 - What must a person receive to become the President?
 - Who decides who is President if no one has a majority or if there is a tie?
 - What role does the Senate play?
- 7) Who has the power to decide what day the Electors meet to cast their vote?
- 9) What are the qualifications for President as provided in Clause 5?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- 10) The 25th Amendment modified Clause 6. Under the new guidelines, who becomes President if the President can no longer fulfill that duty? How is this different from the original system found in clause 6?
- 11) If the President is replaced by the Vice President during his term, how is a new Vice President chosen? (This was provided by the 25th Amendment)
- 12) What cannot happen to the President's pay scale during his/her term? Why?
- 13) What 2 things does the President swear to in his/her oath of office?
 - a.
 - b.
- 14) In Section 2, Clause 1, what power is provided to the President regarding the military?
- 15) What can a President NOT pardon or reprieve someone for?
- 16) With whom does the President share appointment and treaty powers?
- 17) What level of officials do NOT require Senate approval (VERY important today)?
- 18) List the ten major powers and duties of the President found in Section 2 and 3.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.
 - 8.
 - 9.
 - 10.
- 19) What are the offenses for which government officials can be impeached?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

20) In comparing the powers of the President with the powers of the Congress, what difference(s) do you note?

ARTICLE THREE:

- 1) Which Branch does Article Three describe?
- 2) Which is the only court mentioned in Section 1?
- 3) What is its function?
- 4) What are inferior courts?
- 5) Who creates them and how?
- 6) What is the term of office for a federal court judge?
- 7) Why can salaries for federal judges NOT be reduced by Congress?
- 8) List the ten types of cases which are always tried in a federal court.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

9) In what three types does the Supreme Court have original jurisdiction? (Section 2)

- a.
- b.
- c.

10) How did the Congress of Vienna in 1815 change the Supreme Court's jurisdiction?

11) What is the only crime defined in the Constitution? (Article 3, Section 3)

12) How does the Constitution define treason?

13) What is required in order for someone to be convicted for treason?

- a.
- b.

What do Articles 4-7 cover?

- 14) Article 4 -
- 15) Article 5 -
- 16) Article 6 -
- 17) Article 7 -

18) Explain the two ways that the Constitution can be amended?

NOTE: Read through The Bill of Rights (first 10 amendments) and the remaining 17 amendments. We will be doing an exercise and work specifically on these in class, so it is good to have background/notes on each.