

AP Government & Politics 2018-2019

Summer Assignment – Mrs. Eastman

Due: Monday, August 20th

Class Description: AP 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. They 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, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project.

Required Book: Government in America 16th edition by Edwards, Wattenburg, and Linebury

(https://www.amazon.com/Government-America-2014-Elections-Updates/dp/0133905047/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1525458549&sr=8-2&keywords=government+in+america)

Summer Assignment: Current Events Journal

One of the bedrock principles of the AP Government and Politics class is that students are not spectators but analysts; they must analyze the documents and debates that formed our republic and animate public life today. During this class, we will analyze primary source documents going back to the founding of our nation. Throughout the summer, it is important that students begin to analyze what is currently happening in the world around them, and how those events affect the political landscape. This will help set the stage for class discussion and prepare students for essays on their AP exam.

- Students will maintain a weekly journal of current national, political, and government events beginning on June 11th and ending on August 10th.
 - June 11th – June 15th
 - June 18th – June 22nd
 - June 25th – June 29th
 - July 9th – July 13th
 - July 16th – July 20th
 - July 23rd – July 27th
 - July 30th – August 3rd
 - August 6th – August 10th
- For each week, students will complete one journal entry. Eight weeks – one entry per week – total of eight entries. Each entry must be based on news from that day. Entries must be

typed and in your own words. Copying and pasting articles will result in a zero for the assignment. Organize entries by date in a folder or three ring binder.

- Each entry should include:
 - Date
 - Headline
 - One paragraph summary (at least five sentences long) – do not just copy the story
 - Citation of the story – simply tell me the website, newspaper etc.
 - Identify how the story relates to you, or could personally affect you (at least two sentences)
- Acceptable sources:
 - National Newspapers – can use internet to find them – ex. Washingtonpost.com
 - Websites of major news outlets – ex. CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, Yahoo etc.
- Tips
 - Do not put off assignment until the end of summer – it will be noticeable and could negatively affect your 1st quarter grade
 - Do not use blogs, personal websites or other non-mainstream media
 - You can email questions to me at seastman@fcapatriots.org
 - Reminder: This assignment will be collected on August 20