

**SUMMER ASSIGNMENT
AP U.S. GOVERNMENT
2018-2019**

AS YOU KNOW, YOU ARE ENTERING INTO AN ENTIRELY REDESIGNED CURRICULUM AS WELL AS A REDESIGNED TEST FOR THE AP U.S. GOVERNMENT COURSE FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR. THE NEW COURSE IS MORE FOCUSED ON PRIMARY SOURCES. YOUR ABILITY TO CONNECT THESE PRIMARY SOURCES TO TERMS, CONCEPTS, AND THEMES WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT IS HEAVY ON READING AND MAKING CONNECTIONS.

- 1. READ EACH OF THE FOLLOWING PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENTS (ALL CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTERNET)—You must have a printed copy of each in a separate folder for the start of school. Think of it as a book with six chapters of various lengths.**
 - a. FEDERALIST PAPERS ARTICLES 10 AND 51
 - b. BRUTUS ARTICLE 1 (“ANTIFEDERALIST PAPERS”)
 - c. THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
 - d. THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION
 - e. THE CONSTITUTION AND ITS AMENDMENTS
 - f. LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL
- 2. A CASE A WEEK—EACH OF THE CASES FOUND ON THE THIRD PAGE ARE MANDATORY FOR THE REDESIGNED TEST NEXT YEAR. FOR OUR CLASS, EACH OF THE LISTED CASES WILL INCLUDE A RELATED CASE. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMPARE AND/OR CONTRAST THE REQUIRED CASE AND ITS RELATED CASE.**
- 3. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU FOLLOW CURRENT POLITICAL EVENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. YOU ARE TASKED WITH THE JOB OF FINDING TWO ARTICLES FROM CREDIBLE MAJOR NEWS OUTLETS (NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, OR THE INTERNET) THAT DIRECTLY CONNECT TWO OR MORE OF THE MAJOR AREAS OF STUDY FOR NEXT YEAR. THESE AREAS OF STUDY INCLUDE:**
 - a. **FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY**
 - b. **INTERACTIONS AMONG BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT**
 - c. **CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS**
 - d. **AMERICAN POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES**
 - e. **POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

FOR EXAMPLE, AN ARTICLE THAT ADDRESSES THE IMMIGRATION CONTROVERSY MAY COMBINE ELEMENTS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS WITH INTERACTIONS AMONG BRANCHES AS WELL AS MAYBE EVEN AMERICAN POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES. IT MAY EVEN BE POSSIBLE TO FIND AN ARTICLE THAT ADDRESSES EACH OF THE MAJOR

AREAS OF STUDY. USING THE SAME IMMIGRATION ISSUE, THE ARTICLE MAY TALK ABOUT:

- LEGISLATION PROPOSED TO TACKLE THE ISSUE AND ITS CHANCES AT SUCCESS WITHIN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**—INTERACTIONS AMONG BRANCHES
- THE IMPACT THE LEGISLATION MIGHT HAVE ON THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS**—CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS
- THE POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES OF THE MAJOR PLAYERS WITHIN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS (IS IT A CONSERVATIVE OR LIBERAL APPROACH?)**—AMERICAN POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES
- THE IMPACT CIVIC PARTICIPATION MIGHT HAVE IN PRESSURING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND/OR THE PRESIDENT IN TAKING CERTAIN ACTIONS ON THE LEGISLATION**—POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
- THE ELECTORAL IMPACT OF THE LEGISLATION (ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR ELECTORAL SUCCESS FOR THOSE WHO MUST VOTE ON THE LEGISLATION)**—POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
- THE SPECIFIC PARTS OF THE CONSTITUTION INVOLVED IN DETERMINING HOW THE LEGISLATION MIGHT PROCEED AND WHETHER IT IS CONSTITUTIONAL OR NOT.**—FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY
- THE FRAMERS' PERCEIVED VIEW ON THE ISSUE**—FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

SOME OTHER EVENTS THAT WILL BE OF IMPORTANCE THIS SUMMER

- U.S./NORTH KOREAN SUMMIT
- SPECIAL COUNSEL ROBERT MUELLER'S INVESTIGATION
- MIDDLE EAST FOREIGN POLICY
- CONGRESSIONAL MIDTERM ELECTIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AS WELL AS CONTROL OF CONGRESS
 - PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL RATINGS
 - STATE LEGISLATIVE/GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS
 - CENSUS PREPARATION AND REAPPORTIONMENT
- ARGUMENT OVER THE SECOND AMENDMENT AND GUN RIGHTS/CONTROL
 - EPA REGULATIONS

OBVIOUSLY, I AM NOT NOSTRODAMUS AND CANNOT PREDICT WHAT EVENTS WILL OCCUR THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER THAT COULD HELP PROVIDE YOU WITH MATERIAL TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK OF FINDING ARTICLES, BUT THE ABOVE ARE JUST SOME THOUGHTS. **REMEMBER, THE ARTICLE NEEDS ONLY TWO OR MORE AREAS OF STUDY.**

YOU WILL BE MAKING A PRESENTATION TO YOUR CLASS ON ONE OR BOTH OF YOUR ARTICLES. THE EXACT NATURE OF THE PRESENTATIONS WILL BE DEPENDENT ON HOW THINGS FINALLY SHAKE OUT WITH REGARD TO THE CLASS SIZE OF EACH AP U.S. GOVERNMENT SECTION. I WILL GIVE YOU MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION WHEN SCHOOL STARTS IN AUGUST. PRESENTATIONS WILL BE LATER IN SEPTEMBER.

COURT CASES

PRIMARY CASE

1. McCULLOCH VS. MARYLAND
2. SCHENCK VS. U.S.
3. BROWN VS. BOARD OF ED.
4. BAKER VS. CARR
5. ENGLE VS. VITALE
6. GIDEON VS. WAINWRIGHT
7. TINKER VS. DES MOINES
8. NY TIMES VS. U.S.
9. WISCONSIN VS. YODER
10. U.S. VS. LOPEZ
11. McDONALD VS. CHICAGO
12. CITIZENS UNITED VS. FEC

SECONDARY CASE(S)

- MARBURY VS. MADISON**
- BRANDENBURG VS. OHIO
- SWANN VS. CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG
- SHAW VS. RENO/WESBERRY VS. SANDERS
- WEST VIRGINIA BOARD VS. BARNETTE
- MIRANDA VS. ARIZONA/MAPP VS. OHIO
- KUHLMEIER VS. HAZELWOOD
- NEAR VS. MINNESOTA
- LEMON VS. KURTZMAN
- HEART OF ATLANTA VS. U.S.
- HELLER VS. D.C.
- BUCKLEY VS. VALEO/McCONNELL VS. FEC

*****MARBURY VS. MADISON IS ACTUALLY A PRIMARY CASE***

WEBSITES OF INTEREST—to help you with all of the above.

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

<https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution>

The interactive Constitution is an excellent guide to some questions you might have about the Constitution throughout the summer and school year. It is also the website that is being pushed as a component of the AP test.

BILL OF RIGHTS INSTITUTE

<https://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/>

This website is a source of some of the important primary source documents that are essential to the course curriculum. The site also includes a summary of many of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases as well.

SUPREMECOURT.GOV<https://www.supremecourt.gov/>

This site, along with SCOTUSblog.com (<http://www.scotusblog.com/>) provides information on more recent Supreme Court cases and, with some digging, information on some past court cases. SCOTUSblog is good in addressing cases in a nonpartisan fashion and providing a more readable understanding of case information. For older cases, the Oyez (<https://www.oyez.org/cases/2017>) website is a good site. (Using the “TERM” tab will lead you to Court cases chronologically)

CONGRESS.GOV<https://www.congress.gov/>**POTUS/WHITE HOUSE**<https://www.whitehouse.gov/>

Both of the above sites will allow you to follow information regarding what is happening currently in both branches of government. Obviously, be a little careful of what is being provided as both will be a little slanted towards their specific objectives with regard to their roles and responsibilities.

KHAN ACADEMY<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-us-government-and-politics>

Khan Academy has an updated site specifically for the AP U.S. Government course with detailed information covering all major subject areas including explanations of the primary source documents for which you are responsible. Although it is a little dry at times, it is very good at providing both an explanation with a transcript of what is being said. It also provides a quick explanation of what to expect on the exam at the conclusion of the program. The great thing about this site is that you can pick and choose topics as you wish.

Overall: There is so much information available out there to assist you in better understanding the primary sources you are to read over the summer. Just one piece of advice, if it is information that is providing you with *opinion* of a secondary nature, please try to be careful of its potential partisanship which might emphasize certain interpretations or passages within the primary source documents. ***THERE IS NO WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE WHEN YOU RETURN TO SCHOOL, BUT YOU WILL BE TESTED ON SOME OF THE MATERIAL AFTER LABOR DAY BREAK AND YOU WILL BE GIVING A PRESENTATION SOMETIME IN LATE SEPTEMBER. SO, READ AND PREPARE EARLY ENOUGH TO MINIMIZE THE DIFFICULTY OF DEALING WITH THIS STUFF LATER.***

I truly believe that if you throw yourself into this class from the start and pay attention to your political surroundings, that you will find this class extremely interesting, and most importantly, extremely valuable in the long run. The upcoming 2018 Congressional Midterm elections will be of utmost importance for so many reasons...I cannot wait to get back to school next year (within reason) to start discussing this topic with you.