

Advanced Placement Government  
Summer Assignment  
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AP Government students,

This advanced placement course is designed to be a college level course and permit you to earn college credit as well as pass the AP Exam in May. The primary objective of the course is to focus on the philosophy, history, politics, and structure of the U.S. Government. More than just memorization of the facts and material is required. I will be challenging to use critical thinking skills and analysis. This class involves higher order thinking stemming from knowing the basic information.

Below I have the 4 summer assignments listed and explained. The summer reading test for 2 books will be the first day of class. Assignment #3 will also be due the first day of class. The Constitution Test will be given the 2<sup>nd</sup> class. The purpose of these assignments is to prepare you for us to start immediately on task and make you familiar with concepts of American Government, since we need as much time and background knowledge possible. **Do not procrastinate**, it will be a detrimental habit for you to have in this class. Many of you have limited knowledge of the American Government thus the summer assignment helps you with background information for the class. It will also prepare you for the rigorous pace of the class during the school year and to condition you to analyze and think critically.

At times you may need to do further research and exploration to finish the assignments. Any questions or concerns please e-mail me.

## **Intellectual Honesty:**

The purpose of an education is to improve the development of thinking and expression. All students must be honest in their academic studies. To falsify the results of one's research, to steal the words or ideas of another, to cheat on an assignment, or to allow or assist another to commit these acts corrupts the educational process. Any copying, cheating, or plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Plagiarizing, copying, and cheating consist of presenting others work as your own. Students are expected to do their own work and neither give or receive unauthorized assistance. Any students involved in these actions will receive a zero, be reported to school administration, and punished according to the guidelines in the student handbook. Plagiarizing, cheating, and copying are dishonest and considered unintelligent.



### **Remember:**

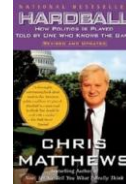
**As you read, you should make a timeline of the books and notes on major concepts. Also keep a list of main characters as well as vocabulary. These become a great reference to study for the tests.**

The following comes from Mr Geromin's website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/msgeromin/ap-government-summer-assignment>

**Assignment 1:**

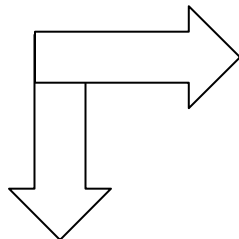
Read **"HARDBALL"** –by Chris Matthews (revised and updated version)



As you read this book, think about the questions below. You would do well to take notes with regard to these questions. Knowing the answers to these questions will help prepare you for the Summer Reading Test, which will be administered the first day of class

1. LBJ's famous line, *"It's not who you know, it's who you get to know."* Explain.
2. Explain Tip O'Neill's favorite quote, *"All politics is local,"*
3. Ross Perot's Machiavellian tactic:  
*"If you want to make a friend, get someone to do you a favor."* Explain.
4. What did Ronald Reagan mean when he said, *"Dance with the one that brung ya."*
5. Concerning politics, what is meant by *"Keep your friends close...your enemies closer."*
6. Define the political term *Wholesale Politics*.
7. Define the political term *Retail Politics*.
8. What is meant by the *Politics of Spin*?
9. What does Matthews mean by *"Hanging out a lantern on your problem."*
10. Define the journalism terms: *deep background; on background; off the record*.

**KEEP GOING**



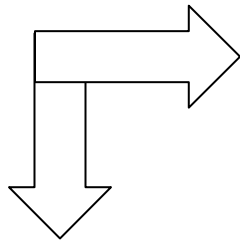
The following comes from Mr. Salerno's website:

<http://salernosclassroom0.tripod.com/id96.html>

*Before or as you are reading Hardball, make certain you have a working knowledge of the following terms/people:*

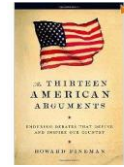
- Congress: the House, Senate, and Speaker of the House
- The President: the Cabinet, the Cabinet Secretaries.
- Machiavellian politics
- Interest Groups
- Campaign Contributions
- Positioning
- Hardball
- "The Johnson Treatment"
- Retail Politics
- Patronage
- Wholesale Politics
- Spin
- Ronald Reagan
- Thomas "Tip" O'Neil
- Richard Nixon
- LB Johnson
- Bill Clinton
- Jimmy Carter
- Chris Matthews

**KEEP GOING**



**Assignment 2:**

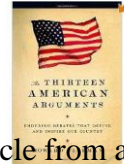
Read "The Thirteen American Arguments" by Howard Fineman



As you read this book, you will be working on assignment 3, but remember it would do you well to take notes also. Along with the *Hardball* book, this book is also part of the Summer Reading Test, which will be administered the first day of class

**Assignment 3:**

Based on the book "The Thirteen American Arguments" by Howard Fineman, you are to do the following:



For each chapter/section of the book below you are to find a newspaper article from a major newspaper relating to the issue in the chapter ( It can be printed of internet or from actual newspaper). Must be clear what newspaper it is.

On a separate sheet of notebook paper do the following concepts/questions for each section. (Each is worth 1 point-for a total of 65 points)

This is due the first day of class first thing.

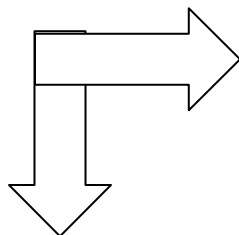
1. Summarize the article and the issue discussed in article.
2. How does this relate to the chapter/section in the book.
3. What are the different viewpoints/sides of the issue? (You can draw chart if you'd like)
4. Who has these views? (You can add these to drawn chart if you'd like)
5. Based on information from that chapter, how do you think the author would view the issue in the article? (Support your answer)

Find an article and do #'s 1-5 above for each chapter/section below.

1. Who Is a Person?
2. Who is an American?
3. The Role of Faith
4. The Limits of Individualism
5. What Can We Know and Say?
6. Who Judges the Law?
7. Debt and Dollar
8. Local versus National Authority
9. Presidential Power
10. The Terms of Trade
11. War and Diplomacy
12. The Environment
13. A Fair, "More Perfect" Union

**REMEMBER TO BE BRIEF BUT CONCISE-SUPPORTING YOUR STATEMENTS**

**KEEP GOING**



#### **Assignment 4:**

Read and know the” Constitution of the United States”.

The second class you will be given a test on the Constitution of the United States.

You can easily find a copy online as well as guides and explanations of it. You probably have not discussed this in depth so be sure you understand all parts of the Constitution.

In order to understand the Constitution you must be aware of the following for all parts of it:

**History** (why was this created-what’s going on)

**Objective** (What does this do-purpose)

**Limits** (What can be done and not done-loopholes- interpretation)

**Effect** (How does and has this changed society)

Generally the Constitution can be broken into 3 basic sections

#### **3 Basic Sections:**

1. Preamble

2. Articles:

- a. Article 1- Legislative .....makes laws etc
- b. Article 2- Executive .....enforces laws etc
- c. Article 3- Judicial .....interprets laws etc
- d. Article 4- Interstate Relations.....among each other
- e. Article 5- Amending.....how to make them-society changes
- f. Article 6- Supremacy .....Federal laws over state
- g. Article 7- Ratification....approval?

3. Amendments:

1st ten known as Bill of Rights

**Below is a guide I found online at the following website:**

<https://sites.google.com/a/clovisusd.k12.ca.us/nitschke-s-cnec-website/assigments>

**The guide is thorough and may help you.**

### ***THE BIRTH OF THE CONSTITUTION The Articles of Confederation***

1. Define:

Confederation:

Constitution:

Commerce:

2. What was the first form of our national government?
3. For a law to pass, how many states had to agree?
4. What were the powers of Congress under the Articles of Confederation?
5. What could Congress NOT do under the Articles?
6. Why was there no executive under the Articles?

### ***The Constitutional Convention***

1. Define:

Convention:

Compromise:

Delegate:

2. Where did the Constitutional Convention meet in May, 1787?
3. Who served as president of the convention?
4. What was the most serious task that the convention faced?
5. Name two famous politicians who were absent from the convention.

### ***Compromise***

1. Define:

Bicameral:

Unicameral:

2. What question was resolved with the Great Compromise?
3. What plan was supported by the large states? Why?
4. What plan was supported by the small states? Why?
5. Fill in the information:
  - A. Virginia Plan:
    1. How many houses?
    2. Number of congressmen determined by:
  - B. New Jersey Plan:
    1. How many houses?
    2. Number of congressmen determined by:
6. What was the Great Compromise, and how did it establish the legislative body?
7. Representatives in the House of Representatives are chosen by:
8. Senators in the Senate are chosen by:

### ***Separation of Powers***

1. Define

Separation of Powers:

Checks and Balances:

Legislative:

Executive:

Judicial:

2. Name three ways in which the powers of the United States are divided.
3. Why are the powers separated?
4. What is the job of the legislative branch?
5. What is the job of the executive branch?
6. What is the job of the judicial branch?

### ***Organization of the Constitution***

1. Define:

Ratify:

Amend:

Article:

2. What do you think the sun represents in Franklin's quotation?
3. What is the purpose of the Preamble?
4. How many Articles are in the Constitution?
5. What is Article I about?  
Article II?  
Article III?
6. Why have certain phrases or sections been italicized?

### ***The Preamble***

1. By whose power was the Constitution written?
2. Fill in the blanks:

**GOALS OF THE CONSTITUTION:**

(Actual words of the Constitution)

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.

(Your own words)

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.

3. Rewrite the Preamble in your own words.

## ***THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH***

### ***Introduction***

1. Define:

Majority:

Minority:

Privilege:

Expel:

2. What is the major duty of the legislative branch?
3. What two houses make up the Congress?
4. When do its meetings begin?
5. What is the name of the record of the meetings of Congress?
6. List two privileges of members of the United States Congress.

### ***The House of Representatives***

1. Define:

Census:

Impeach:

2. How many representatives are there in the House of Representatives?
3. How many representatives does your state send to Washington, D.C.?
4. What are the three qualifications to be a representative?
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
5. What is the term of office of a representative?
6. What is the title of the presiding officer of the House?
7. The House begins the impeachment process by doing what?

### ***The Senate***

1. How many senators does each state send to Washington?
2. What is the total number of senators today?
3. What is the term of office of a senator?
4. What are the three requirements to be a senator?
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
7. What are the titles of the two presiding officers of the Senate?

### ***Rules, Rights, and Privileges of Congress***

1. Define:

Quorum:

Expel:

Adjourn:

2. How many representatives from the House of Representatives would need to be present in order for there to be a quorum?
3. What fraction of the Senate must agree to expel a member?  
What number is that?
4. Where can you find the notes of the meetings of Congress?
5. What house is the only house to introduce bills to raise money?

### ***How Bills Become Laws***

1. Define:

Veto:

Override:

2. Where can a bill be introduced?
3. Money bills must be introduced in which house?
4. If a bill is approved by the House of Representatives, where must it go next?
5. When both houses approve a bill, then where does it go?
6. If the President vetoes a bill, what process must happen for the bill to become a law?
7. What fraction of representatives and senators must agree in order to override the President's veto?
8. If the veto is not overridden, what happens to the bill?

### ***Powers of Congress***



1. List and describe four powers given to the Congress by Article I, Section 8:
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
2. What is the "elastic clause"?
3. Define enumerated powers and give an example.
4. Define implied powers and give an example.
5. Define inherent powers and give an example.

### ***Limits on Congress and the States***

1. What does "habeas corpus" mean, literally?
2. Why does the Constitution prevent Congress from taking away our right of habeas corpus?
3. What is a bill of attainder?
4. What is an ex post facto law? Give an example.
5. What is one other limit placed on the Congress?
6. What are two additional limitations placed on the states by the Constitution?
  - a)
  - b)
7. Explain these three powers:
  - Delegated:
  - Concurrent:
  - Reserved:

## ***THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

### ***Introduction***

1. Define:
  - Execute:
  - Executive:
2. If the legislative branch makes the laws, then the executive branch does what with the laws?
3. What is the title of the chief executive, or head, of the executive branch of the United States?
  - What is the name of the person who is currently in that office?
4. What is the title of the second-in-command?
  - What is that person's name today?
5. What is the job of the Electoral College?
6. How many electoral votes does your state have today?
7. What was the original purpose of the Electoral College?
8. Who chooses the President in the event of a tie?

### ***Qualifications for President***

1. What three requirements must be met in order to be President of the United States?
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
2. In the proper order of succession, who will take over in the event the President dies? List four people.
  - a)
  - b)

- c)
- d)
- 3. When is a President elected?  
When is a President inaugurated?  
Why do you suppose there is a gap of time?
- 4. Who usually administers the oath of office to the President?

### ***Powers and Duties of the President***

1. What are the five categories that the powers of the President can be put into?
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
  - e)
2. What is the President's responsibility to the United States Military?
  - a) What is his title?
  - b) What can he do?
3. What is the President's responsibility to the business aspect of the United States government?
  - a) What is his title?
  - b) What can he do?
4. What is the President's responsibility to the aspect of foreign relations?
  - a) What is his title?
  - b) What can he do?
5. What is the President's responsibility to approve, disapprove, or suggest laws?
  - a) What is his title?
  - b) What can he do?
6. What is the President's responsibility to his political party?
  - a) What is his title?
  - b) What can he do?

### ***Impeachment***

1. Define:
  - Impeach:
  - Misdemeanor:
  - Bribery:
  - Treason:
2. Which house of Congress begins the impeachment process?
3. Which house of Congress acts as the jury and tries the case?
4. Who acts as the judge at the impeachment trial of a President?
5. In order for an official to be convicted, what fraction of the Senate needs to agree?
6. Who were the only two Presidents to have gone through the entire impeachment process?  
When?
7. At what point during the impeachment process did President Nixon resign? When?
8. How many Presidents have been removed from office by being found guilty after the impeachment process?

### ***Organization of the Executive Branch and the Cabinet***

1. What are the four divisions of the executive branch?
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
2. How many cabinet departments are there?
3. Which President created the Cabinet? When?
4. Give an example of an independent agency.
5. Give an example of a government corporation.
6. Give an example of a regulatory commission.

### ***THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND ARTICLES IV-VII Organization of the Judicial Branch***

1. Define:  
Judicial:  
Appeal:
2. What is the job of the judicial branch?  
... legislative branch?  
... executive branch?
3. What is the name of the highest, most important court in the United States?
4. What are the titles of the men and women who serve on the high court?
5. How many serve on the high court? How long do they serve?
6. Who appoints the justices, and who must approve of them?
7. There are 91 \_\_\_\_\_ courts and 12 \_\_\_\_\_ courts that report to the Supreme Court.
8. Name two other courts that are part of the Federal judicial system.

### ***Cases for the Supreme Court***

1. Define:  
Jurisdiction:
2. List nine types of cases the Supreme and Federal Courts have jurisdiction over:
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
  - e)
  - f)
  - g)
  - h)
  - i)
3. What is original jurisdiction?
4. What is appellate jurisdiction?
5. What is a writ of certiorari?

### ***Judicial Review and Treason***

1. Define:  
Unconstitutional:  
Treason:
2. The process of checking the laws of our land is called:
3. What does it mean when the Supreme Court declares a law "unconstitutional"?

4. Give an example of an act of treason.
5. What must happen in court for a person to be convicted of treason?

#### ***Article IV: The States***

1. Define:  
Republican:
2. What issue does Article IV address?
3. What must the state of Oregon do about the laws of Idaho?
4. Who is given the power to admit new states?
5. Could Rhode Island, Vermont, and New Hampshire join together to form a new state?  
How?
6. What is a republican form of government?
7. Under the Articles of Confederation, how could the relationship between the states be described?
8. Under the Constitution, how could the new relationship between the states be described?

#### ***Amending the Constitution***

1. Define:  
Amend:  
Ratify:
2. What issue does Article V address?
3. What two ways can an amendment be proposed?
  - a)
  - b)
4. What two ways can an amendment be ratified?
  - a)
  - b)
5. What fraction must propose an amendment, and what fraction must ratify an amendment?

#### ***Articles VI and VII***

1. Why did the framers include Article VI in the Constitution?
2. Is it possible for the city of Chicago to make a treaty with the country of Germany? Why or why not?

#### ***THE AMENDMENTS***

##### ***The Bill of Rights, 1791: Amendments I-III***

1. Define:  
Assembly:  
Petition:  
Quartering:
2. Why did Americans insist on adding the Bill of Rights to the Constitution?
3. What five freedoms does the First Amendment guarantee?
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
  - e)
4. What does the Second Amendment guarantee?
5. What does the Third Amendment prohibit?
6. The First Amendment guarantees us freedom of speech. Do you think it's okay to scream "Fire!" in a crowded theater when there is no fire? Why or why not?

### ***The Bill of Rights, 1791: Amendments IV-VI***

1. What is a search warrant?
2. What is an arrest warrant?
3. What is a grand jury?
4. What is an indictment?
5. What is double jeopardy?
6. What amendment guarantees the right of due process of the law?
7. Which amendment protects people from unreasonable searches and seizures?
8. Which amendment protects people from being tried twice for the same crime?
9. Which amendment guarantees the right to a lawyer, even if a person can't afford one?
10. Which amendment prevents the courts from forcing a person to witness against himself?

### ***The Bill of Rights, 1791: Amendments VI-X***

1. What is a jury?
2. What does the Seventh Amendment guarantee?
3. What is excessive bail?
4. What would you consider cruel and unusual punishment?
5. What does the Eighth Amendment protect us from?
6. What does the Ninth Amendment say about rights not listed in the Constitution?
7. The power to set up school districts is not stated in the Constitution. Who has the authority to create schools? What amendment gives them that power?

### ***1798-1870: Amendments XI-XV***

1. How does the Twelfth Amendment change how the President and Vice President are elected?
2. What war was the Thirteenth Amendment a result of?
3. What does the Thirteenth Amendment abolish?
4. Under the Fourteenth Amendment, who is guaranteed the rights listed in the Constitution?
5. Who was given suffrage with the Fifteenth Amendment?

### ***1900-1950: Amendments XVI-XXI***

1. The Sixteenth Amendment gave Congress the power to
2. Who elected the senators before the Seventeenth Amendment?  
Who elects our senators now?
3. Which group of Americans was given suffrage with the Nineteenth Amendment?
4. What does the Twentieth Amendment change? Why?

### ***1950-Present: Amendments XXII-XXVII***

1. According to the Twenty-second Amendment, for how many terms can one be elected as President?
2. Who was given the right to vote by the Twenty-third Amendment?
3. What group was given suffrage with the Twenty-sixth Amendment?
4. What practice was outlawed by the Twenty-fourth Amendment?
5. If a President dies and the Vice President takes over, what must happen to get a new Vice President?
6. What amendment authorizes the above situation?

