

AP Government and Politics  
Summer Assignment 2018-2019

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Step One: Join Google Classroom. All assignments and course materials will be posted here.

Class code: z03rk3

Step Two: Read Chapter 1 from the Edwards textbook and complete the outline. You will have test on this material during the first week of school. (25 Points based on completion)

Step Three: Complete the US Constitution study guide. (25 Points based off accuracy and completion)

Step Four: Current Events Journal- For 5 weeks, you will be required to keep a journal of the weeks major events as recorded in printed/television media (2 per week). You may begin this in July, and the weeks do NOT have to be sequential. This will accommodate family vacations/ summer work schedules. You must use a reliable news source like the Associated Press, ABC News, NBC News, CBS News, Reuters, Bloomberg, Wall Street Journal, Time, The Economist, Politico etc. Highly biased and inflammatory sources like Buzzfeed or Breitbart are not allowed. More specific directions are found on the assignment itself. (10 Points per week)

**AP United States Government  
Chapter 1 Study Guide – Introducing Government in America**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vocabulary:** Briefly define the following terms.

- |                            |                               |                            |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Government              | 9. Political issue            | 17. Pluralist theory       |
| 2. Public goods            | 10. Policymaking institutions | 18. Elite and class theory |
| 3. Politics                | 11. Public policy             | 19. Hyperpluralism         |
| 4. Political participation | 12. Policy impacts            | 20. Policy gridlock        |
| 5. Single-issue groups     | 13. Democracy                 | 21. Political culture      |
| 6. Policymaking system     | 14. Majority rule             | 22. Gross domestic product |
| 7. Linkage institutions    | 15. Minority rights           |                            |
| 8. Policy agenda           | 16. Representation            |                            |



10. List the four major policymaking institutions in the United States.

a.

b.

c.

d.

11. Define the term "policy impacts."

12. Define the term "democracy" as used in this text.

13. List the five cornerstones of an ideal democracy.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

14. Explain the principles of majority rule and minority rights.

15. Complete the following table comparing pluralist, elite and class, and hyperpluralist theories according to who holds the power and how policy is made.

Theory	Who holds power	How policy is made
Pluralist		
Elite and class		
Hyperpluralist		

16. List the major challenges facing American democracy.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

17. What is "political culture" and why is it crucial to understanding American government?

18. List and give an example of the five elements of the American creed according to Seymour Martin Lipset.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

19. List three ways in which America might be experiencing a crisis of cultural values.

- a.
- b.
- c.

20. Make a list of items that illustrate the scope of American government.

21. What is gross domestic product and how does the term illustrate the scope of American government?

# **DELRAN HIGH SCHOOL AP GOVERNMENT SUMMER ASSIGNMENT**

As a student in AP Government, you will be expected to come prepared for class each day. To ensure that you are ready for the first days of class, I have created the following assignment. It will be due the first day of class – late work will be penalized.

## **Part I – The United States Constitution**

Read the entire Constitution and summarize the purpose of the Articles in one or two sentences.

### *Article I*

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### *Article II*

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### *Article III*

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*Article IV*

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*Article V*

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*Article VI*

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Answer the following questions as they relate to the Constitution

1. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the House of Representatives?
2. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the Senate?
3. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for the President?



4. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or to office holders are called *expressed powers*.

a. Identify two expressed powers of the President.

i.

ii.

b. What are the expressed powers of the Vice President?

Identify two expressed powers of the Senate.

i.

ii.

c. Identify two expressed powers of the House of Representatives.

i.

ii.

5. According to the principle of checks and balances, each branch of government must have some level of influence / control over the other branches. Look at the first three Articles of the Constitution and identify one of each type of checks and balances.

a. Executive over Legislative: \_\_\_\_\_  
Article/Section: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Executive over Judicial: \_\_\_\_\_  
Article/Section: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Legislative over Executive: \_\_\_\_\_  
Article/Section: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Legislative over Judicial: \_\_\_\_\_  
Article/Section: \_\_\_\_\_

e. Judicial over Executive: \_\_\_\_\_  
Article/Section: \_\_\_\_\_

f. Judicial over Legislative: \_\_\_\_\_  
Article/Section: \_\_\_\_\_

6. According to Article I of the Constitution, who has to power to declare war?
7. What power does the Constitution give the President in are area of the military?
8. What conflict arises due to the separation of powers listed in #6 and #7?

The Constitution requires a simple majority for some actions in Congress and a super majority for others. A simple majority means more than half, while a super majority requirement can involve a 2/3 majority or a 3/4 majority. Most elections in the United States require a plurality or the most votes, but not necessarily a majority.

9. What bodies have the power to override a Presidential veto?
  - a. What margin is required to override a presidential veto?
  - b. Where in the Constitution is the veto power described?
10. What body has the power to ratify treaties?
  - a. What margin is required to ratify treaties?
  - b. Where in the Constitution is the ratification power described?
11. To impeach means “to bring charges against” or “to indict”. What body has the power to impeach the President?
  - a. What is the margin to impeach the President?
  - b. What in the Constitution is the power to impeach the President described?
12. What body has the power to convict the President of charges brought against him in an impeachment process and thereby remove him from office?
  - a. What margin is required to convict and remove the President?

- b. Where in the Constitution can the removal of a President be found?
13. What body has the power to accept or reject a President's nominations to the Supreme Court?
- a. What margin is required to elevate a President's nominee to a seat on the Supreme Court?
  - b. Where in the Constitution are judicial nominations described?
14. If no candidate for the Presidency wins a simple majority of the total number of electoral votes what body has the power to choose the President?
- a. What margin is required to choose the President?
  - b. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described? (2)
15. The Constitution specifies a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority for just one process – what?
16. See Article VI – In your own words, explain the Supremacy Clause:
17. What are the two ways Amendments to the Constitution can be proposed?
18. What are the two ways Amendments to the Constitution can be ratified?
19. Which Amendment(s) to the Constitution protect(s) the rights of women?
20. Which Amendment(s) to the Constitution protect(s) the rights of minorities?
21. How were the United States Senators chosen before the 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment?

22. The 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment describes the sequence of events that would install the Vice President as acting President against the will of the President. Outline the sequence of events.

23. How many times is PRIVACY mentioned in the Constitution (Articles and Amendments)?

24. Which Amendment(s) take away any rights of the people?

Outline the general purpose for each of the 27 Amendments to the Constitution

Amendment 1	
Amendment 2	
Amendment 3	
Amendment 4	
Amendment 5	
Amendment 6	
Amendment 7	
Amendment 8	
Amendment 9	
Amendment 10	
Amendment 11	
Amendment 12	
Amendment 13	

Amendment 14	
Amendment 15	
Amendment 16	
Amendment 17	
Amendment 18	
Amendment 19	
Amendment 20	
Amendment 21	
Amendment 22	
Amendment 23	
Amendment 24	
Amendment 25	
Amendment 26	
Amendment 27	

### **Current Events Journal**

AP Government is more directly related to current events than any course you will take in high school. Everything that we will study relates to how politics and government works in modern America. Accordingly, knowledge of current political and governmental affairs will significantly help you to understand the things we study, and will, in fact, be **necessary** to succeed in the course. If you know that is going on in the country with respect to politics and government, you **will** do better in the course.

You should follow major current events by doing one or more of the following on as close to a daily basis as possible:

- Read either the print or online version of a major newspaper.
- Watch a national/international news broadcast (CNN, MSNBC, FOXNews, PBS, ABC, CBS, NBC) – **not** a local news broadcast.
- Read major newsmagazines or political journals (*Time*, *Newsweek*, *US News and WorldReport*, *The Economist*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *Weekly Standard*, *National Review*)

During five weeks this summer (beginning in June or July and ending in August) keep a current events journal. At the end of each week, write two brief paragraphs about two major events in American government and/or politics from the past week.

In the first paragraph, you should summarize and describe the event/s, and in the second paragraph, you should analyze the significance of it/them and state any opinions, thoughts or analysis that you might have about it/them. Your journal should deal with issues that are of *significant importance* to American politics and government. Such things include what the President is up to, what is happening on the campaign trail, what Congress is debating or legislation that they are passing, constitutional issues or major federal court decisions concerning them, debates over political issues in America, international crises or foreign policy issues that somehow affect the US or that our government must deal with, etc. With each week's entry, you must include a list of news media sources you used during that week. Each entry will include the date and title of the article/broadcast and include a source citation in MLA format.

**Week 1 Journal:**

**Dates:**

Story 1

Title/ Headline: \_\_\_\_\_

Source MLA Format: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary: \_\_\_\_\_

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Analysis: \_\_\_\_\_

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Story 2

Title/ Headline: \_\_\_\_\_

Source MLA Format: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Analysis: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Week 2 Journal**

**Dates:**

Story 1

Title/ Headline: \_\_\_\_\_

Source MLA Format: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary: \_\_\_\_\_

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Analysis: \_\_\_\_\_

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Story 2

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Analysis: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Week 3 Journal**

Dates:

Story 1

Title/ Headline: \_\_\_\_\_

Source MLA Format: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Analysis: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Story 2

Title/ Headline: \_\_\_\_\_

Source MLA Format: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary: \_\_\_\_\_

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Analysis: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Week 4 Journal**

**Dates:**

Story 1

Title/ Headline: \_\_\_\_\_

Source MLA Format: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary: \_\_\_\_\_

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Story 2

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Source MLA Format: \_\_\_\_\_

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Analysis: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Week 5**

**Dates:**

Story 1

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Source MLA Format: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary: \_\_\_\_\_

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