

AP Government and Politics Summer Assignment 2021

Mrs. Johnson (ajohnson@ltps.info)

The completed summer assignment is due on the first full day of the first full week of classes **in SEPTEMBER**.

Late work will be evaluated, and can earn a grade of no more than a 65.

If you are new to the district (registration after August 1st) your work will be due **the first week in October**.

If, as you are working, you have questions, email me at ajohnson@ltps.info

Assignment #1: Follow the news!

- Choose four weeks during the summer and read one newspaper and one periodical article per week beginning the week of June 20.
 - **(total 8 articles – 2 per week) ***
- After reflecting on each reading, write a two-paragraph journal entry in which you comment on both the **political/constitutional ideology** as presented in each piece as well as the **implications of the issue** for the future of the United States.
 - For example, an article about Political Action Committees (PACs) might address the issue of campaign financing. A particular group of Americans might be unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged according to the article. What are the implications for the value of each person's vote and the future structure of government? Which groups might have more power or authority in Washington?
- *dates may be flexible to accommodate vacations as long as **4** different weeks are represented. You may use sources not listed below as long as they are not partisan sources, sponsored and/or paid for by a specific political group. Although the sources need not be academic sources, they must be respected and academically rigorous.

Newspapers – online or hard copy

Washington Post

New York Times

Los Angeles Times

Philadelphia Inquirer

Boston Globe

Star Ledger

Wall Street Journal

Magazines – online or hard copy

The Week

The Atlantic

The Economist

The Weekly Standard

National Review

The New Republic

Harper's

Assignment #2. Free Response Questions & Constitution Analysis

Choose 2 and respond with a thesis statement (NOT an intro paragraph - simply a thesis). Then three full paragraphs with well-defined topic sentences.

1. Why do you think all tax bills must originate with the House of Representatives (Article I, sec. 7)?
2. The last paragraph of Article I, section 8 is often called the “elastic clause.” Why do you think this is so? What kinds of laws are made possible by this clause?
3. According to the original (unamended) Constitution, the President could be elected from one party while his vice President could end up being someone he did not want or even a member of another party. How was this possible? What problems might this have created?
4. Article IV, section 4 states that the federal government must insure that the states have a “republican form of government.” What does that mean? Does this mean that state governments must be structured like that of the federal government? Could this guarantee impact the concepts of initiative, referendum, or recall?
5. Federalism is defined as a political system in which governmental power is divided between national and state levels; Obviously then, the United States fits somewhat into this model of Federalism. What does Amendment IX (9) suggest about the relationship between federal and state power in the United States? Has the federal government grown too large? Does our current structure reflect the intended balance of power between the states and the federal government?
6. What do you think “cruel and unusual punishments” mean in Amendment VIII? Why do you think they are forbidden? Do you think the United States still employs “cruel and unusual” punishments?

AP US Gov
Summer Assignment
Rubric Components

Name _____

Date _____

Assignment #1: FOLLOW THE NEWS

_____/80 points

- 10 points awarded for succinct summary and analysis of content and its relevance to concepts of political/constitutional ideology. Total of 10 articles results in a possible score of 80.
- Include a link to the article, or cite source, author, title and date if reading a paper version

Assignment #2: FREE RESPONSE QUESTIONS

_____/25 Points QUES# _____

_____/25Points QUES# _____

_____**50 Points** (Developmental)

Points distributed as follows:

- 0-5 points awarded for thesis statement
- 5-10 points for evidence of historical context of the question topic
- 5-10 points for discussion of varied interpretations over time and/or current application of the section of the Constitution asked about.