

2020-21 AP U.S. Government and Politics
Summer Assignment
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Welcome to the AP Government class for Trinity High School. You could not ask for a better year to take this class...I mean that sincerely. It is a presidential election year, with Congress up for grabs, state legislatures up for grabs, and a census year to boot. The last time these things converged was 2000. It only happens every 20 years. In other words you were not even alive when it last occurred. You will only be the second class in my time at Trinity to have the opportunity to experience this while taking the class. And I have been here since Reagan. It may not seem like it means much, but hopefully you will start to understand exactly why it means so much as we work on this class.

A few things that you need to know about the course. (Assuming no adjustments have to be made for testing again...let's hope that is not the case this coming year)

1. There are a number of "mandatory" topics of concern as outlined within the curriculum developed by the AP. They include:
 - a. 9 Foundational primary documents (Listed later in this document)
 - b. 15 Supreme Court cases (Table provide on Google Classroom)
 - c. Understanding of the policymaking process and the relationships between the three branches of government and their interactions with the four basic linkage institutions (media, interest groups, political parties, and elections).
 - d. A general knowledge of some current events (note: current is relative)
2. The test is divided into two sections
 - a. 55 multiple-choice questions
 - b. 4 Free-response questions (essays) of a very specific nature
 - i. Concept Application
 - ii. Quantitative Analysis
 - iii. SCOTUS comparison/contrast
 - iv. Argumentative Essay which requires a thesis sentence

This Summer Assignment is developed in a manner that will allow us to start to develop a knowledge and understanding of the mandatory items from the outset. A list of these mandatory items will be provided through Google Classroom.

The most important thing to understand from the beginning is that there will be no written assignment to turn in to me at the start of the year. However, there will be a series of assessments that must be completed. These will test your knowledge

and understanding of the mandatory documents and cases. More details on the Google Assessments will be provided as we get closer to the end of the summer.

I have developed three tables of information to assist with your understanding of the primary documents and SCOTUS cases. They can be found with the posting of the summer assignment in the AP Government Google Classroom stream.

So, in essence, you have to do the following:

1. Read the primary documents and become familiar with them. (exception is Letter from a Birmingham Jail which we will read when we get to civil rights)
 - a. A Khan Academy assignment has been added to open those documents up to you. Please complete this assignment on Khan Academy. There is nothing to do except open the document and read it. No written work to be done on your part.
 - b. Obviously, you may print these documents if you choose to do so, as well as use research online to help you better understand them.
2. Become familiar with the general importance of each of the mandatory SCOTUS cases. (use the table to help you with this).
3. Become familiar with the format of the Constitution and the 27 Amendments. (I know it seems like it is a memorization game at first, and it is. However, you have to trust me on this one.)
4. Please note the terms in blue print--these are important terms and concepts that you need to know in order to better understand the document, case, or amendment.

Your assessment format when we return to school will be in three sections (through Google)

1. Primary foundational documents--you will have to connect the document that best fits a situation, concept, quote, argument, etc.
2. Multiple choice section on the SCOTUS cases
3. Multiple choice section on the format of the Constitution and its 27 amendments.

It is important that you also start to follow some important current events. What is of major importance is that you understand terms, concepts, processes, and the connections between these items. This includes the ability to draw your own conclusions about certain connections. If you have questions or concerns, let me know. Sooner rather than later.

