

Instructor: Mr. Malafronte

## A.P. U.S. Government and Politics

### Summer Assignment:

To my students,

A.P. Government is a College Course. The amount of work and dedication required to succeed as a high school student in this class is considerable. That being said the following assignment is a mandatory requirement that is due on the first day of class, no excuses.

The purpose of the assignment is to build a foundation of knowledge that you will need in order to understand the more complex concepts of the U.S. Government and how Politics work in our nation. The Theme of this assignment is the United States Constitution. An understanding of the Constitution is essential if you are to be successful in this class. It is the framework around which our country has been and continues to be built on.

The U.S. Constitution was written in 1789. It has been changed twenty seven times, debated over, fought over, and been the source of much conflict throughout American History. You will be responsible for having a general understanding of it as well as knowing specific aspects of the document. This assignment will provide you with a useful tool to refer to all year long.

If you have any questions or concerns you may contact me by e mail:

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**Directions:** Read the United States Constitution. (**The entire document!**) Then answer the following questions in complete sentences. Make sure it is neat and well organized. I encourage you to type and print the assignment, but if you prefer to hand write it that is fine, as long as it is neat. I suggest you use the following source to complete the work.

[WWW.constitutioncenter.org](http://WWW.constitutioncenter.org) Click on "Interactive." Then sort through the information to find the answers.

1. Read each Article of the Constitution and summarize the general purpose of each one in 20 words or less.

**Article I**

**Article II**

**Article III**

**Article IV**

**Article V**

**Article VI**

**Article VII**

2. **Eligibility Requirements:** List the Constitutional Qualifications to hold these offices:

Member of the House of Representatives

Senator

President and Vice President

Supreme Court Justice

3. **Expressed (Enumerated) Powers** are those powers that are specifically granted to the Federal Government by the Constitution.

- a. List two expressed powers of the President.
- b. List two expressed powers of the Vice President
- c. List two expressed powers of the Congress.

4. **Checks and Balances** are those concepts placed into the Constitution that give each branch specific control over the other two branches. This is stated in the first three Articles of the Constitution and is supposed to prevent abuses of power and one branch becoming more powerful than the other two.

- a. List a power the executive branch has over the legislative branch.
- b. List a power the executive branch has over the judicial branch.
- c. List a power the legislative branch has over the executive branch.
- d. List a power the legislative branch has over the judicial branch.
- e. List a power the judicial branch has over both branches.

5. **Answer the following:**

- a. Who has the power to declare war?
- b. What power does the Constitution give the President in regards to war?
- c. What bodies have the power to override a presidential veto?
- d. What margin is required to override a presidential veto?
- e. Where in the Constitution is the veto power described?
- f. What body has the power to ratify treaties?
- g. Where in the Constitution is the ratification power described?
- h. What body has the power to impeach the President?
- i. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described?
- j. What body has the power to convict the president of charges brought against him in the impeachment process?
- k. What margin is required to convict and remove a president from office?
- l. What body has the power to accept or reject the president's nomination to the Supreme Court?
- m. Where in the Constitution are the judicial nominations described?
- n. If no candidate for president wins a simple majority of electoral votes, what body has the power to choose the president?
- o. What margin is required to choose the president?
- p. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College?

6. **Processes** listed in the Constitution:
  - a. The Constitution requires a three-fourths majority for just one process. What is it?
  - b. Read Article VI. Explain the “Supremacy Clause” in your own words.
  - c. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be proposed?
  - d. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified? (Accepted)
  
7. Summarize each of the first Ten Amendments, (**The Bill of Rights**) in your own words.  
Amendment I  
Amendment II  
Amendment III  
Amendment IV  
Amendment V  
Amendment VI  
Amendment VII  
Amendment VIII  
Amendment IX  
Amendment X
  
8. **Amendment Questions:**
  - a. Which Amendment (s) protect the rights of women?
  - b. Which Amendment (s) provides for people to receive “equal protection under the law”?
  - c. How were U.S. Senators chosen before the 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment?
  - d. The XXV Amendment describes the sequence of events that would install the vice president as acting president. Outline this process.
  - e. Which Amendment (s) cancel or void another amendment?
  
9. Which two Amendments do you believe are the most important and why?
  
10. Are there any Amendments that you believe are outdated and could be done away with? Explain your answer.

Congratulations, you now know more about the U.S. Constitution and our Government than the majority of adults in our nation. Please make sure this assignment is neat, organized and written or typed using complete sentences. Make sure you review and study this information before school begins. There is a very good chance that there will be a Test on the first day. Enjoy the rest of your summer. See you on the first day of class.