

Advanced Placement United States Government Summer Assignment

In preparation for your upcoming Advanced Placement course in Government and Politics, you will be required to complete the following assignments. You are asked to read and view these assignments and respond to the questions in order to be better prepared for your class next fall.

Assignment #1: FOLLOW THE NEWS (25 point quiz on first day of class)

This will greatly enhance your understanding of the theoretical concepts of this course. When you can link *theory* to actual *events*, you are much more likely to comprehend and retain material. In addition, knowledge of current events is essential on the A.P. test's free response section.

- Follow the news
- Keep a portfolio (either electronic or physical) that includes at least one article per week related to your national or local government.
- Write an analysis of one issue (for example, the Republican contenders for the presidential nomination)

Ways to follow the news:

1. Watch an evening network news program. Local news is great for weather, sports and local soft stories, but they do not cover political and governmental events like the networks do.
2. Read the *Washington Post*, *N.Y. Times*, *L.A. Times*, or any other major newspaper. Read the editorial and opinion section as well as the letters to the editors.
3. Read political blogs – some standard student favorites are Politico, Slate, The Daily Kos, Huffington Post, Townhall.com, and Real Clear Politics. The Current White House Staff wakes up to Mike Allen's Politico Playbook. You could have that emailed to you every day, sent to your phone, kindle, etc. A great resource.
4. Read weekly news magazines such as: *Time*, *Newsweek*, or *U.S. News and World Report*.
5. Listen to a radio talk show. There are numerous programs and hosts available to choose from.

Assignment #2:

The *Federalist Papers* were a series of essays written in 1787-1788 to convince New York voters to ratify the proposed Constitution. The essays explain why the Constitution would provide a system of government that would meet the needs and address the fears of Americans for years to come. Read essays number 10 and number 51 - find them in a book or on the internet.

Answer the following questions for each essay.

Federalist Paper #10

1. What is the greatest fear of a popular government?
2. Explain the following: "There are two methods of curing the mischiefs of faction: one, by removing its cause; the other, by controlling its effects?"
3. Explain how both majority and minority factions can be controlled through a dispersal of power.

Federalist Paper #51

1. What is essential to the preservation of liberty? How should this be so constituted?
2. Explain the following: "A dependence on the people is, no doubt, the primary control on the government; but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions."
3. In a republican government, which branch is the strongest? Explain the three ways of "remedying this inconveniency."
 - a. Separation of powers
 - b. Checks and balances
 - c. Federalism
4. List two ways in which the federal system of the United States "places that system in a very interesting point of view," i.e., protects against tyranny.

Assignment #3

Read *Teen Cyberbullying Investigated: Where Do Your Right End and Consequences Begin?* By Judge Tom Jacobs

Available on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/Teen-Cyberbullying-Investigated-Rights-Consequences/dp/1575423391>

Be prepared to discuss cases from the book.