

# AP Government Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP US Government & Politics! I'm Ms. Renee Phelps, and I'm looking forward to teaching you over the 2016-2017 school year. This is an Advanced Placement class, which means it is taught on a college level. To be prepared to hit the ground running in September, you will need to do the following over the summer.

AP Government & Politics requires you to be knowledgeable about the world around you as it connects to the United States government. I'm designing these assignments with the idea that you will get into the regular habit, if you aren't already, of following current events and paying attention to the world around you. Your task is to find 10 current events articles documenting the events this summer involving the U.S. government and politics. These articles can be found at places like for 538.com, CNN, Fox News, the Seattle Times, the New York Times, USA Today, Time Magazine, Rachel Maddow's blog, etc.

You need to briefly summarize each article and include a MLA bibliography, or work cited, page with all 10 articles. Visit here for help: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/07/> Plan to turn this assignment in on the first day of school, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

1. Political Parties/Voting & Elections (2 articles): *Republicans, Democrats, minor parties, or Independents. State and Local government elections. (This should be easy.)*
2. Separation of Powers/Checks and Balances (2 articles): *Between the executive (President) and legislative (Congress) branches, between the executive (President) and judicial (Supreme Court & other federal courts) branches, between the legislative (Congress) and judicial (Supreme Court & other federal courts) branches.*
3. The effects of Interest groups/PACs/Media on the political process (2 articles): *Lobbyists, lobbying reform, Political Action Committees (PACs), campaign finance, interest groups.*
4. Issues related to the three branches of government (2 articles): *The activities of the legislative (Congress), executive (President), or judicial branch (Supreme Court).*
5. Public Policy (2 articles): *Economic policy, foreign/military policy, social policy (i.e. immigration, healthcare, education.).*

I'm also expecting you to be familiar with the major news stories (not always political) over the summer, and we will have a quiz the first week back at school This summer should be extremely interesting & entertaining with plenty of events relevant to our course of study. I will expect you have a basic working knowledge events of major news events from over the summer, especially as they pertain to the US Government. If you don't know something, spend some more time researching and looking into it. Please make note of and pay particular attention to: the Presidential race (the National Conventions in July, endorsements and any possible debates), Supreme Court decisions expected later this month, Brexit, Syria/refugees ISIS, the Rio Olympics, gun legislation, movies, weather events. There will be any number of other events I can't predict, so pay attention to major stories.

Above all, rest and relax over the summer! Senior year is challenging on many levels: college applications/post high school plans, course work and growing up.

If you have questions, comments or concerns email me at [rnp Phelps@seattleschools.org](mailto:rnp Phelps@seattleschools.org). I will check my email this summer sporadically, especially during July when I will be traveling. If you have questions I will try to respond as soon as I can.

*Ms. Phelps*