

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 2017- 2018 school year. As this is an Advanced Placement class, it is taught on a college level which means you can expect that I will challenge you, move quickly and expect you to be responsible and self-motivated students. 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 habit, if you aren't already, of following current events and paying attention to the world around you. Your task is to find 12 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 12 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 6th. Be prepared to use your work for an activity.

1. **Constitutional Underpinnings:** *the Constitution & Amendments, the relationship between states and the national government (2 articles).*
2. **Political Beliefs & Behaviors:** *the demographics of the US, elections, how Americans vote (1 article).*
3. **Linkage Institutions** (Political Parties, Media, Interest Groups): *actions and organizations, lobbyists, lobbying, reform, Political Action Committees (PAC's), campaign finance reform, interest groups, impact of all three on the political process (2 articles).*
4. **Three Branches** (Legislative, Executive, Judicial): *activities, actions and interactions of/between any of the three branches (4 articles).*
5. **Civil Rights & Civil Liberties:** *the rights of people, protections from actions of others, protections from the government (1 article).*
6. **Public Policy** (actions of the government): *Economic policy, foreign/military policy, social policy (i.e. immigration, healthcare, education (2 articles).*

I'm expecting you to be familiar with the major news stories (not always political) over the summer, and we'll have a quiz the first week back. This summer should be extremely with plenty of events relevant to our course of study. I'll expect you have an understanding of events of major news events from over the summer, especially as they pertain to the US Government. If you don't understand an even spend some time looking into it. My advice is to pay particular attention to: elections (foreign and domestic), hearings connected to Russia and the 2016 election, lawsuits and legal challenges to the Trump administration, state government budget, education funding in Washington, Supreme Court decisions, sports, movies, weather events. There will be any number of other events I can't predict, so pay attention to major stories. You should also know who represents you in both a state and federal levels.

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. I will check my email this summer about once a week.

Ms. Phelps