

AP United States Government and Politics Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP US Government and Politics. The course you are about to embark on is reading and writing intensive. The summer assignment is meant to prepare you for the year to come. If you have any questions about your assignment feel free to email me at clane@goretti.org. The Summer Assignment is divided into three parts. You are required to complete each part by the due date given and submit your work on google classroom. The google classroom number for this class is: kdy9ozd.

Part 1 – Introduce Yourself

Answer the following four questions and submit your answers on google classroom in the given format. You must use complete sentences in a standard 12-point font. You must submit your answers by **July 14**.

Name: _____ Grade: _____
(Last name, first name)

1. What extracurricular or sports activities are you involved in?
2. What is something interesting about you?
3. What is the most interesting thing you did, or you will do, this summer?
4. What do you hope to pursue following graduation from Goretti?

Part 2 – Current Events

You must complete **TWO (2)** current event essays on the concept of democracy. Your essays must be submitted on google classroom no later than **August 18**.

Specific Guidelines – For each essay, follow these instructions:

Step 1. Consider the following definitions:

Democracy: a system of selecting policymakers and of organizing government so that policy represents and responds to the public's preferences.

Policy: a course of action taken by a government, party, business, or individual with regard to some problem.

Step 2. Find a current event article that you believe relates to democracy. The article must come from a respected news source. Make sure the current event article has sufficient information to allow for your analysis of the topic. Include a full copy of the article as an image or text, and include a full MLA citation for the article. Note: A current event article is a news report of a **present-time event concerning important people, places, things, or ideas**. Current event articles are sports reporting, or opinion, editorial, or human interest articles.

Step 3. Answer the following questions regarding your chosen current event article:



- Provide a brief summary of the article
- Why is this event newsworthy?
- How does this event relate to the concept of democracy as defined? – Note: This is the most important question.

Step 4. Use the worksheet provided as the format for your response.

For each of the articles, a suggested length would be a two-page paper (Times New Roman, 12 pt font, double spaced, 1.5 inch margins). Below are examples of appropriate news sources for this assignment:

The Herald Mail (or any respected print newspaper)
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/> BBC News
<http://online.wsj.com/public/us> Wall Street Journal
<http://www.economist.com/> The Economist
<http://www.bostonherald.com/> Boston Herald
<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/> Philadelphia Inquirer
<http://www.csmonitor.com/> Christian Science Monitor
<http://www.nytimes.com/> New York Times
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/print/> Washington Post
<http://www.timesdispatch.com/> Richmond Times Dispatch
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/> MSNBC Website
<http://www.npr.org/templates/topics/topic.php?topicId=1001> National Public Radio
<http://www.foxnews.com/> Fox News
<http://www.cnn.com> Cable News Network

There are numerous other worthy sources for your current events so this list is just a sampling. Do not use blogs or sensational media sources.

Current Event Rubric	2 (Exceeds Expectations)	1 (Minimum Expectations)	0 (Needs Improvement)
Article choice	Article is a current event from a respectable news source and is of an appropriate length	Article is a current event from a respectable news source	Article is not appropriate for the assignment
Summary	Summary of article is clear, complete, and accurate. All of the main points are addressed.	Summary of article is clear, complete, and accurate.	Summary of the article is unclear, incomplete, or inaccurate
Newsworthy	Analysis of how the event affects rights or lives of citizens is clear and complete. Several valid examples are applied and extended to support the response.	Analysis of how the event affects rights or lives of citizens is clear and complete. Valid examples are used to support the response.	Analysis of how the even affects right or lives of citizens lacks clarity.
Analysis	Analysis of the current event is clear and complete. Student explains how the event is tied to the chosen topic using prior knowledge, information from article, government vocabulary, and knowledge of principles of democracy.	Analysis of the current event is clear. Student gives basic explanation of the relationship to the topic chosen.	Analysis of the current event is unclear. The relationship to the topic is misapplied or not well-communicated.
Organization	It meets the requirements of length and is organized according to the guidelines above. No grammar errors.	It meets part of the requirements of length and or organization. No grammar errors.	It meets none of the requirements.

Part 3 – Constitution Scavenger Hunt

Carefully read the Constitution of the United States. Complete the worksheet, Constitution Scavenger Hunt. You are not required to use complete sentences for this worksheet. The worksheet will be collected on the first day of class or you may submit it on google classroom prior to the first day of school.



Student Name: _____

Current Event Analysis Worksheet

News Source: _____

Date of Article: _____ **Author:** _____

Title of Article: _____

1. Summarize the story
2. Why is this event newsworthy?
3. How does this event relate to the topic you chose?

Student Name: _____

Constitution Scavenger Hunt

1. Who was the "father of the Constitution"?
2. How many articles in the Constitution? How many amendments?
3. Name two authors of "The Federalist Papers".
4. How many states were required to ratify the Constitution before it could go into effect?
5. Which were the last two states to ratify (after the new government had already begun to function)?
6. How often is the number of congressional districts per state determined?
7. According to Article I, Section 2, of the Constitution, how were slaves to be counted when determining the number of congressional districts per state?
8. Who has the sole power of impeachment?
9. Who has the sole power to try officials who have been impeached?
10. When the president of the U.S. is tried for impeachment, who presides at the trial?
11. According to the Constitution, a writ of habeas corpus may not be suspended except under what conditions?
12. The first article of the Constitution places limits on the states. Name one.
13. Name two congressional limits on the president according to the Constitution.
14. Which article of the Constitution defines the powers of the president?
15. For what office mentioned in the Constitution must a person be a natural-born citizen?
16. Name three powers of the president as stated in the Constitution.

17. Which branch of the federal government is responsible for establishing lower federal courts?
18. What is the vice-president's only constitutional responsibility?
19. What is the only condition specified by the Constitution concerning the nature of state governments?
20. What is the only crime defined by the Constitution?
21. What does the Constitution require to convict a person of treason?
22. How does Article VI of the Constitution resolve possible conflicts between state laws and federal laws?
23. What does Article VI say about administering religious tests to candidates for public office?
24. When is it possible for a constitutional convention such as the Convention of 1789 to occur?
25. Can the president introduce, ratify, or veto a constitutional amendment?
26. What are the first ten amendments to the Constitution called?
27. What are the five basic rights mentioned in the First Amendment?
28. What does the tenth amendment say about the delegation of powers to the states?
29. Which amendment established the federal income tax?
30. The Nineteenth Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, passed in what year?
31. According to the Twentieth Amendment, if the president-elect dies before the beginning of his/her term, who becomes president?
32. Name the only amendment that specifically repeals another amendment? Which amendment was repealed?

33. What was the purpose of the most recent amendment to the Constitution? When was it first proposed?
34. The argument that "anyone old enough to fight for his country, is old enough to vote" secured passage of what amendment?
35. What is the term (number of years) served by a member of the House of Representatives?
36. What is the term served by a member of the Senate?
37. What is the minimum age for a Representative?
38. What is the minimum age for a Senator?
39. What is the minimum age for a President?
40. Name the Reconstruction Amendments; those amendments that banned slavery, declared all persons born or naturalized in the U.S. to be citizens, established due process and equal protection under the law, and established suffrage for black Americans.
41. What is the exception to the Thirteenth Amendment's abolition of involuntary servitude?
42. The Twenty-fifth Amendment says a president unable to discharge the powers of his/her office must declare this in writing to two people. Who are they?