

# AP U.S. Government & Politics Summer Assignment

To have a little background knowledge right at the start of class, and to get you thinking about government & politics in America presently, you have 3 small assignments to complete, and some foundations of government to study.

- 1) **Current Supreme Court decisions:** (type up responses, due the 1<sup>st</sup> day)
  - In late June, the Supreme Court will be announcing their rulings on many of the cases they've heard during their October through June session. Pick one case to summarize (name, what it was about, how the vote went, impact). These two websites will have all the information you need: [www.scotusblog.com](http://www.scotusblog.com), and [www.oyez.org](http://www.oyez.org).
  
- 2) **Past Supreme Court Cases:** (type up responses, due the 1<sup>st</sup> day)
  - Using the Oyez website research respond to the following 2 early landmark cases:  
*Marbury v. Madison*, and *MuCulloch v. Maryland*
    - 1) What was the issue
    - 2) What are some facts
    - 3) What the court decided (summarize the majority opinion, including giving the reasoning behind the opinion, and identifying who wrote it). There was no dissenting opinion in these cases.
  
- 3) **Basics of the Constitution.**
  - Review (study) the attached sheet on the Constitution (Preamble, Articles, and Amendments). We will look at these in more detail during the course, but it will be good to have some simple background knowledge. Fill out the attached worksheet (on the back) on 6 major principles also. You will have a quiz on these, and the summary sheet the first or second day of class.

## 6 Major Principles:

**Popular Sovereignty** – the government's right to rule comes from the people, ultimate power resides with the people

**Limited Government** – The government has only those powers the Constitution gives it

**Republicanism** – Elected representatives serve at the will of the people

**Federalism** – Division of power between a national government and state governments

**Separation of Powers** – The delegation of governing into 3 branches so no one part/person can control all governing functions

**Checks and Balances** – System in which each branch of government can monitor and limit the functions of the other