

AP U.S. Government & Politics Summer Assignment

To make the class more interesting and relevant to you, we will be discussing current events as they relate to Government and Politics throughout the year. With that in mind your summer assignment will be to read articles from credible news sources, and type up a paper answering the prompts for each topic. You will need to include a Works Cited page of your sources in MLA format. Due first day of class.

1) Presidential Candidates.

- Find an article or articles on the Democratic and Republican candidates. Compare their policy positions on at least 3 issues. Also, identify, and explain any bias you see in the article (s). Two sites I recommend are www.cnn.org and www.politico.com. You may use other sources as well.

2) Party Conventions.

- The Republican and Democratic Party conventions will be in the latter half of July. If you can, watch at least an hour of TV coverage of each one (preferably when they actually nominate their candidate). Write a reflection of what went on, and your opinion of it. If you can't watch, then find an article that describes the last night of each convention (when they officially approve the party's candidate) summarize the article, and write a reflection (opinion, what you found interesting etc) on it.

3) Supreme Court.

- 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, vote, impact). These two websites will have all the information you need: www.scotusblog.com, and www.oyez.org.

4) Congressional Action.

- Summarize and reflect (opinion etc.) on an article you found that refers to some sort of policy that either house of Congress reported on. In other words something Congress did regarding government (not the presidential campaign) that made the news. This can be straight news or an opinion piece, but you must identify it as such, and its author. Explain any bias.

5) Fact Checking the Candidates.

- Use either www.factcheck.org, or www.politifact.com to report on one thing both major party candidates said (what was it, how was it rated, why).