

U. S. Government & Politics (AP)

2019-2020 – Summer Assignment

Mr. Hettinger – WHS – Room 3304

This is an exciting time to be studying politics. We have an unconventional President who is fascinating to watch and follow on Twitter, but he is leading us into a constitutional crisis with the refusal of his administration to obey congressional subpoenas. Start paying attention to the talk about impeachment and the White House and the Congress struggling for control. That plus the upcoming presidential nomination process are topics that are all over this exam. All of this will impact your life as a soon-to-be voting age citizen. In addition, we have such a full curriculum that we need to begin our introduction to the government now.

In preparation for the class, you are required to complete following summer assignment (#1 below) and turn it in on the **first day of class**.

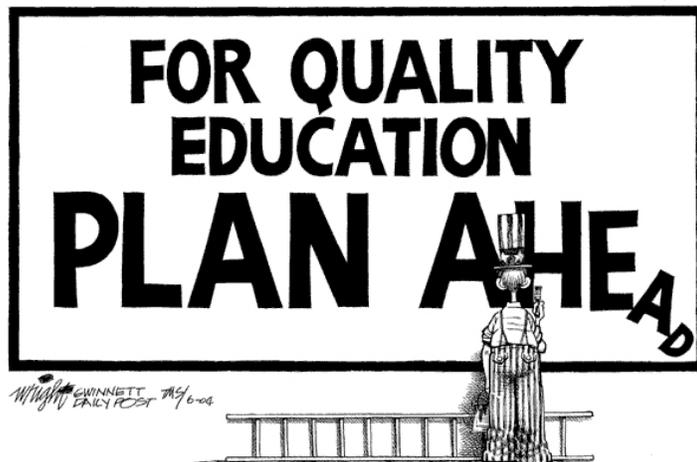
REQUIRED

1. Check out a copy of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution (by Center for Civic Education, Jan. 1998). Read Lessons 1-2 and 10-22. At the end of each lesson is a blue box called “Reviewing and Using the Lesson”. Type or neatly write brief answers to not less than 2/3 of the questions for each lesson (e.g., for 5 questions, answer 4). You may choose which questions to answer. All of your answers combined should be between 8 and 12 pages. (If you type, use a font like Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, & 1.5 spacing. I like seeing name & page # in the corner, but you don’t have to follow MLA format.)

RECOMMENDED

2. Become a political news junkie. Start a subscription to the LA Times. Listen to NPR (89.3 or 89.9 FM). Let Steve, Rachel, & David and Audie & Ari become your newest friends. Watch the network interview shows on Sunday mornings or even the Daily Show with Trevor Noah or Last Week Tonight with John Oliver to learn about what is happening.
3. Start to immerse yourself if the subject matter of our class. The concepts of government will come more easily to you if you are already familiar with some political issues of our day. On the back of this page is a list of outstanding podcasts, books, and films. Reading, watching, or listening to any of them will give you a head start on the content of U.S. government and politics while simultaneously impressing all the adults in your life!

If you have any questions or concerns, I am available via e-mail at: Hettinger.Drew@tUSD.org Keep in mind that I don’t check this account on a daily basis over the summer.



Amazing podcasts for listening during your morning run

- NPR Politics Podcast or Up First or Planet Money (NPR)
- The Daily (NY Times)
- Political Gabfest (Slate)
- Pod Save America (left) & The Daily Standard or The Remnant with Jonah Goldberg (right) for more partisan material

Insightful books for afternoon reading at the beach

Insider Exposé:

- Who Thought This Was a Good Idea?: And Other Questions You Should Have Answers to When You Work in the White House, by Alyssa Mastromonaco
- Unbelievable: My Front-Row Seat to the Craziest Campaign in American History, by Katy Tur
- Shattered: Inside Hillary Clinton's Doomed Campaign, by Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes
- Hardball: How Politics is Played Told by One Who Knows the Game, by Chris Matthews
- Eyewitness to Power – the Essence of Leadership, by David Gergen

Humor:

- Dave Barry Hits Below the Beltway, by Dave Barry
- The Daily Show with Jon Stewart Presents America (The Book): A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction, by Jon Stewart

Political Analysis:

- The Courage of Their Convictions – Sixteen Americans who Fought Their Way to the Supreme Court, by Peter Irons
- Liberal Fascism: The Secret History of the American Left, From Mussolini to the Politics of Meaning, by Jonah Goldberg
- The Political Mind: Why You Can't Understand 21st-Century American Politics with an 18th-Century Brain, by George Lakoff

Recommended Films / DVDs for a relaxing summer evening

(Caution: some of these are rated R. Review the parent advisory on IMDB in advance)

Comedy

- The American President (1995)
- Dave (1993)

Drama

- On the Basis of Sex (2018)
- The Front Runner (2018)
- Vice (2018)
- The Post (2017)
- Miss Sloane (2016)
- The Ides of March (2011)
- V for Vendetta (2005)
- The West Wing, Seasons #1-7 (1999-2006)

Documentary

- RGB (2018)
- Divide & Conquer: The story of Roger Ailes (2018)
- What is Democracy? (2018)
- Get Me Roger Stone (2017)
- 13th (2016)
- Weiner (2016)
- Citizenfour (2014)
- Inequality for All (2013)
- Street Fight (2005) (with Cory Booker!)
- The War Room (1993) (on Clinton)