

**ALL SUMMER WORK IS DEPENDENT UPON YOUR FINALIZED SCHEDULE!**

*Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics*  
**Summer Assignment 2019**



Welcome to *AP United States Government and Politics*! Next May, you will be sitting for the College Board assessment that will measure your understanding of the five “big ideas” related to the major concepts and issues related to government and politics in America. Each “big idea” is complemented by a series “enduring understandings” (with multiple learning objectives) and essential content knowledge.

One of the first “big ideas” that will be examined is “Constitutional Democracy.” The following is the College Board’s description of this “big idea:”

*The U.S. Constitution arose out of important historical and philosophical ideas and preferences regarding popular sovereignty and limited government. To address competing states’ visions for the allocation of governmental authority, compromises were made during the Constitutional Convention and ratification debates, and these compromises have frequently been the source of debate in U.S. politics over the proper balance between federal and state power and between liberty and social order.*

You are expected to keep this “big idea” in mind as you read the first two chapters of your textbook: *American Politics Today*. Entitled “Understanding American Politics” and “The Constitution and the Founding,” These chapters detail key points related to politics in the United States and U.S. Constitution. The PDF’s for both of these chapters are found on the district website link for *AP United States Government and Politics* under Social Studies Summer Assignments. You are expected to read both chapters, take notes on essential points, and prepare for an assessment that will be administered on the designated date for Social Studies Summer Assignments. You should consider this task as an introduction to the critical reading and note-taking work that will be expected of you in *AP United States Government and Politics*.

Since so much of what is covered in *AP United States Government and Politics* is linked to both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, you are also expected to familiarize yourself with these essential documents.

You are expected to closely read the Declaration of Independence. You are encouraged to annotate a printed copy of the text, taking notes on the argument for independence that is executed. The Declaration of Independence can be found in the National Archives: <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>.

You are expected to closely read the U.S. Constitution. You are expected understand the general purpose/subject of Articles I-VII of the U.S. Constitution as well as the general purpose/intent of the 27 amendments to the document. It is suggested that you self-design a graphic organizer to serve as a referent during our ongoing study of how the U.S. Constitution plays a role in American politics today. These points will be included in the same assessment covering Chapters 1 and 2 of *American Politics Today*. This material can be found in the National Archives: <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcrip>.

A final note: political intolerance and disrespect for different ideas will not be tolerated in *AP United States Government and Politics*. The first steps to understanding the contrasting political points of view in America are to develop realistic, respectful expectations about political diversity and to make a renewed, shared commitment to pragmatism over ideology.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Mrs. Wilkins at [mwilkins@rumsonfairhaven.org](mailto:mwilkins@rumsonfairhaven.org). Teacher response time will be influenced by personal obligations, vacation plans, and work responsibilities. Be patient.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Mrs. Wilkins