



You have chosen to pursue a challenging curriculum in United States Government and Politics. By enrolling in this course, it is assumed that you enjoy history, are interested in politics, prepared to invest time and effort in your school work and willing to pursue a rigorous program of study. **All students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in United States Government and Politics in May 2025.**

Summer Reading Requirements 2025-26

As a first step in this AP course, you will be required to complete the summer assignments outlined below. Failure to do so may jeopardize your placement in the class.

You **MUST** complete the following assignments. These assignments should be **handwritten**, legible, complete and turned in on **Friday, September 12, 2025**.

- **NO EXCUSES!!** Additional assignments related to the summer reading may be given in September.
- You will **NOT** submit these assignments to the "Summer 24 APGOV classroom." The Google Classroom is used for text and constitution resources only. If you have questions about assignments, you should email me **directly**. The Classroom Code is **ioxotp5o**
- Each of the three assignments will be collected separately. Label the text assignment accordingly with a proper heading.
- The proper heading for all assignments is below:

Name
AP Government & Politics

Due Date
Mrs. Picatagi

Assignment Name

1. **US Constitution Scavenger Hunt.** You will complete the scavenger hunt using the text of the Constitution, **Do not Google the answers. Spend some time reading the text!** The National Constitution Center has a great interactive website, <https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution> and an App you can download. There is also an annotated version posted on Google Classroom. **Use a different color and Highlight** your answers. **You will need to print this document**
2. **Reading and Annotation of the Declaration of Independence.** Complete **all** parts of the assignment. **Use a different color and/or Highlight as you annotate the Document.** **This will also need to be printed and you should hand write your answers.**

3. **Reading and short answer questions from the PDF textbook, *American Government; Institutions and Policies*.** I am attaching the PDFs of the chapter of the book to Google Classroom. This is not our required textbook for the course. It is from another college level text. When you are able to obtain a textbook from your district, you may of course use that too (but that may not be until late August). **This will also need to be printed and you should hand write your answers.**

Chapter 2 (The Constitution)

- These questions should be answered by reading your textbook. **Do not Google Answers**
 - They should be concise but detailed. Meaning, please make sure NOT to write a simple sentence, but you also do not need to write an entire page for each question. A paragraph or two (or three depending on the question) will suffice as long as you explain using specific details.
 - These explanations should NOT be word for word from the book, please rewrite the information in your own words in order to explain your answer.
 - Many of the questions use the important key words we'll be using during the year "Identify" and "Explain". Knowing what these words mean is very important. When you identify something you are naming it. Explaining something means you are giving specific details in order to answer the question - this is more than just a simple description of what you have identified. An example is often useful when explaining. USUALLY when you are explaining something you are giving a REASON - so provide me with the "WHY" or "HOW".
4. **Follow current events.** Read a newspaper, watch the news from a variety of sources, (note the differences in how they cover similar stories.) Pay attention to the Supreme Court decisions being handed down this June. Follow government actions on the federal and state level, take note of the continuing conflict between the states and the federal government regarding issues of concern to the country. Note the elected officials who are making decisions. There's a great deal going on related to the government and it will only help you to start becoming an informed citizen. **There is nothing to hand in for this, just get used to paying attention to the world around you.**

NOTE:

- **The Summer Assignments will be graded and included in your Quarter 1 average.**
- **A penalty will be assessed for late assignments. The equivalent of a letter grade per day will be deducted from the assignment. After three days, no late work will be accepted for a grade.**
- **If anyone is caught cheating/plagiarizing/copying another student's work BOTH/ALL students involved will earn a ZERO for the summer assignments.**

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at Kpicatagi@holytrinityhs.org

Have a great summer! ☀️

Mrs. Picatagi

Constitution Scavenger Hunt

DIRECTIONS: Using your copy of the annotated Constitution, answer the following questions. **Please place your answers in a different color. Be complete, this will be a useful resource.**

Article I- _____ Branch

1. How often are representatives elected?

2. How old must a Representative be to be elected?

3. How long is the term for a Senator?

4. How were Senators originally chosen? Which amendment changed that?

5. How old does someone have to be to be a senator?

6. Who is the president of the Senate and when may that person vote?

7. Which legislative body has the power of impeachment and which body has the power to try an impeached official?

8. Who shall officiate when the President is tried for impeachment?

9. What is the required vote that is necessary to convict someone who has been impeached?

10. What is the only penalty that can be imposed on someone who is impeached?

11. Who decides the times, places, and manner for holding elections for Congress?

12. In what federal body do all bills concerning taxes/revenue originate?

13. What fraction of both houses must vote to override a veto?

14. What happens when a president does not return a bill in 10 days and what is the exception to that rule?

***EXCEPTION:**

15. In Section 8, the Constitution lists or enumerates the powers of Congress. List 6 of them.

16. In Section 8, which clause gives Congress **the most general, non-specific powers**?

17. In Section 9, there are three limitations on the power of Congress to deny the people rights. What are those three limitations?

18. When may the **writ of habeas corpus** be suspended? (Can you remember an example?)

19. Name three limits on the powers of the states.

Article II- _____ Branch

20. How old does someone have to be to be elected President?

21. How is it determined how many electors each state has?

22. Name 3 Powers of the President.

23. Name the body of Congress that must approve a treaty that the President has negotiated and the fraction of the vote they must approve it by.

24. Which body of Congress approves nominations by the president?

25. When can the President appoint people without approval by anyone else?

26. What can a President or other officers be impeached for?

Article III- _____ Branch

*Interpret the laws (power to declare a law constitution or unconstitutional)

*Lower courts settle disputes

27. What is the term of office for Supreme Court justices? When can they be removed?

28. Who gets to decide how many federal courts we have?

29. In which cases does the Supreme Court have **original jurisdiction**?

30. What must be necessary to convict someone of treason?

Article IV

31. What is the topic of Article IV?

32. What does the Constitution say about how one state must regard the laws of another state?

33. Explain Privileges and Immunities.

34. What limitation is put on admitting new states to the Union?

Article V- _____ Branch

35. What fraction of the houses of Congress is necessary to approve a proposed Amendment?

36. What fraction of states must approve a proposed amendment for it to be ratified?

37. What fraction of the states can ask for a convention to propose new amendments?

38. What is the only limitation in the Constitution as to what can be the basis of an amendment?

Article VI

39. What does the Constitution say about which law shall predominate if there is any conflict between laws?

40. What qualification for holding any public office is forbidden?

Article VII

41. How many states had to ratify the Constitution for it to become law?

The Declaration of Independence by Thomas Jefferson

Activity One—Background

The Declaration of Independence is a statement originally composed by Thomas Jefferson, then adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. It announced that the 13 American colonies, then at war with Great Britain, regarded themselves as independent states, and no longer a part of the British Empire.

Activity Two—Close Reading/Annotation of the Text

Read the Declaration of Independence printed for you below. As you read, use the questions in the right margin to guide your annotations. (Keep in mind that this document was written before the regulation of spelling and capitalization.)

<p>[1] IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.</p> <p>The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,</p> <p>When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.</p>	<p>Why would it be important for the decision to separate from Britain to be <i>unanimous</i>?</p> <p>Paragraph 1 provides the reason <i>why</i> the document was written. What is the purpose of this declaration?</p>
<p>[2] We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such</p>	<p>Jefferson notes that "all men are created equal," suggesting that this was "self-evident." What is meant by that statement?</p> <p>Define "inalienable(unalienable)" rights List them. Which Enlightenment thinker/s would you associate them with?</p>

<p>principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.</p>	<p>What, according to Jefferson, is the duty of the colonists?</p> <p>What has Britain done?</p> <p>What words that show how the colonists feel about Britain and the king.</p>
<p>[3] He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures....</p>	<p>Who is "he"?</p> <p>What has the king done, according to Jefferson?</p>

<p>[4] He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands....</p>	
<p>[5] He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power....</p> <p>For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:</p> <p>For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:</p>	<p>Summarize the two grievances or issues that Jefferson has with the king in this section.</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>
<p>[6] For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:</p> <p>For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:</p> <p>For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:</p> <p>For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences</p> <p>For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:....</p>	<p>Summarize the grievances or issues that Jefferson has with the king in this section.</p>

<p>[11] In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.</p>	<p>According to Jefferson, what have the colonists attempted in the past?</p>
<p>[13] We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, <u>solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved</u>; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.</p>	<p>Read the underlined statement. What is Jefferson saying?</p> <p>What rights does Jefferson claim that the colonies now possess?</p> <p>Would you consider this a declaration of war? Explain.</p>

Activity Three—Express Understanding

Examine the grievances that Jefferson lists as reasons that the king has violated the natural rights of the colonists. Select **one** grievance that you consider the most significant violation that supports Jefferson's claim that the colonists should declare independence from Britain. Explain why this grievance seems so important and how it conflicts with the idea of natural rights. Be prepared to discuss this in class.

Text Assignment

Chapter 2: The Constitution

Task: Answer all questions in complete sentences with detailed responses.

1. **Explain** the notion of “higher law” by which the colonists felt they were entitled to certain “natural rights”. **Discuss** the basis on which the colonists felt a government could be legitimate.
2. Make a **detailed list** of the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation.
3. In one paragraph, choose, and defend that choice, of whether or not a strong central government is necessary when there are 50 state governments.
4. Make a chart comparing and contrasting the Virginia Plan, New Jersey Plan, and the Great Compromise.
5. **Identify** the difference between a democracy and a republic and **explain** how the Constitution strikes a balance between these two forms of government? **Explain** at least one example of each.
6. Make a chart showing the Federalist and Antifederalist arguments about the Constitution.
7. Summarize the three provisions in the Constitution regarding slavery. Why didn't the Founders abolish slavery?