

Advanced Placement Government and Politics
Summer Assignment 2011: Ms. Hunsberger

The following summer assignment is a **prerequisite for taking AP Government and Politics**. Parts 1-4 of the assignment must be turned in on the first day of class.

1. Read Ch. 1 in Wilson's *American Government*. Define the listed terms and answer the questions on a separate piece of paper. This may be hand-written or typed.

Authority

power

political power

legitimacy

representative democracy

What is needed for representative democracy to work?

What were the Framers' intentions?

majoritarian politics

What is necessary for majoritarian politics to occur?

Marxist/class view

power elite view

bureaucratic view

pluralist view

Why isn't elite politics necessarily self-serving?

What explains political change?

2. After reading Ch. 1, type a two page, double spaced, paper that answers the following question: Who rules and to what end?

* Be sure to use and define terms from Ch. 1

3. Throughout the summer, **read the newspaper and political magazines**. This is essential. Success in the class is largely dependent upon your staying current on what is happening in politics and government. **Follow one of the branches of the national government, or one particular national issue (e.g. economic policy, education, the Middle East, War in Iraq, War in Afghanistan, energy, the environment, immigration)** by cutting out 5 articles that demonstrate how the media is covering that branch or issue. Combine the articles in a collage and be prepared to discuss the media's role.

Or,

Follow a presidential primary campaign by cutting out 5 articles that demonstrate how the media is covering the campaign. Combine the articles in a collage and be prepared to discuss the media's role, and what you have learned about campaigns (e.g. strategies, media coverage)

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4. Summarize and analyze four newspaper or magazine articles. These articles must be **different from the articles used for the collage.**

- **Summary** – A minimum of one paragraph explaining what the article is about in your own words. Identify the thesis and supportive evidence.
- **Analysis** – A minimum of one paragraph that analyzes what the article tells us about our political process. For example, what does the article tell us about:
 - The role/influence of political parties
 - Voter behavior
 - The media
 - Campaigns
 - The role of the federal government
 - The role of the state government
 - The role of special interest groups
 - The influence of money on politics
 - The role or power of the judicial branch
 - The power of the President
 - The power of the legislative branch

**Please note that if you find yourself repeating your summary in your analysis, then you are not analyzing. The analysis is also not meant to be your opinion on the topic. The analysis tells us how this specific article sheds light on an element of our political process.

The above list includes suggested topics for analysis. You are not limited by this list.

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5. This part of the assignment is not due until the third class.

Read Ch. 2 in Wilson's *American Government*. Define the following terms and answer questions on a separate piece of paper:

natural rights

liberty

What does it mean to say that the American Revolution was a war of ideology?

What was the real revolution?

Articles of Confederation/ weaknesses

Shay's Rebellion

Federalist Papers

Faction

Virginia Plan

New Jersey Plan

Great Compromise

Republic

Judicial review

Federalism

Enumerated (delegated) powers

Reserved powers

concurrent powers

Separation of powers

Bill of Rights

The Constitution and slavery

Charles Beard

The Constitution and Equality

Line-item veto