

**Advanced Placement Government and Politics**  
**Summer Assignment 2010: Ms. Hunsberger**

The following summer assignment is a **prerequisite for taking AP Government and Politics**. All parts 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 on a separate piece of paper. This may be hand-written or typed.

Authority  
power  
political power  
legitimacy  
representative democracy  
power elite  
Marxist theory  
Bureaucrat theory  
Max Weber  
pluralist theory  
majoritarian politics

2. Read Ch. 2 in Wilson's *American Government*. Define the following terms:

natural rights  
Articles of Confederation  
Shay's Rebellion  
Charles Beard  
Federalist No. 10  
Faction  
Virginia Plan  
Great Compromise  
federalism  
Separation of powers  
Bill of Rights  
The Constitution and slavery  
The Constitution and Equality  
Line-item veto

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

\* In the paper, be sure to use and define terms from Ch. 1

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4. 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. banking regulation, healthcare, the economy, Middle East, War in Iraq, War in Afghanistan, energy, the environment)** by cutting out 5 articles that demonstrate how the media is covering that issue. Combine the articles in a collage and be prepared to discuss the media's role.

Or,

Follow a campaign (House of Representatives, state or local election) 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)

5. 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
- **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

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

