

AP US Government & Politics Summer Assignment 2023

Due Monday, August 28, 2023

Please note: You will receive directions once school starts on how to turn in this assignment electronically. **I will not take this assignment before school starts. I will have specific instructions for doing so on the first day of school.** The purpose of the assignments is to begin to make connections between the core concepts and foundations of the AP Government course with actual current events. This assignment should take about 2-3 hours (depending on distractions, ha). If you have any questions regarding the assignment or the class, please don't hesitate to contact me at Jared_Tyler@charleston.k12.sc.us. I look forward to seeing all of you in August!

Politics, Pandemics & People

What a time to study US Government and Politics!!! The AP GoPo classes of 2021 & 2022 witnessed government policymaking on all levels during a world pandemic. As 18 year olds, they participated in national, state and local elections. They watched riots in the streets and assaults on the US Capitol. They analyzed the impeachment process and its results. They have followed President Biden's policies and watched as the first African American woman was appointed and confirmed to the US Supreme Court.

During the 2023-2024 school year, you will experience government from a different perspective. In addition, you will learn the foundations of government, functions of institutions, how people interact with those institutions, political beliefs, and civil liberties/rights in order to understand **how** and **why** political events unfold the way they do.

Your first assignment over the summer is to think about the **role of our government**, follow media coverage about Congress, President Biden and the federal courts (including Supreme Court decisions). Begin thinking about what is happening with regards to our government and how it impacts American society or certain groups which reside in the US.

Task #1: What do governments do? What are the functions of government?

The following are **key functions** performed by the United States government. Follow current events this summer and **provide a specific current event for each function** that illustrates **how** the government is performing these functions. For example, "the U.S. has a military" is not a current event. A specific military or diplomatic action taken by the military or State Department this summer would be a good example. Legislative action by Congress would be another great example. For each current event, briefly describe how the article relates to the governmental function (1-2 paragraphs).

**Provide a parenthetical citation with a link to the story. For example, ([The Associated Press](#))*

Function	Current Event
Protect their sovereign territory and their citizenry. Provide a national defense.	
Preserves order and stability	

Establishes and maintains a legal system	
Provides services (infrastructure, workplace safety, education, etc.)	

Task #2: Causation

Keep a log of FIVE major events over the summer. Analyze and predict the potential impact on the American people and government (These events may be local, national, or international and 1-2 paragraphs).

Current Event	Prediction of Impact
Ex. Minneapolis riots after George Floyd's death	Democratic candidate Joe Biden will consider these events when selecting a running mate.

Task #3: Voter Registration

Political Participation in the form of voting is one important right which Americans possess. Research and explain the process for how you register to vote in Charleston County. Include the following:

What county organization do you contact?	
What information do you have to provide to register?	
What is the deadline for registering?	
Was there anything that	

surprised you about the process?	
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Helpful resources:

- Democratic National Convention: <https://www.demconvention.com/>
- Republican National Convention: <https://www.2020gopconvention.com/>
- The Atlantic* at the 2020 Conventions: <http://conventions2020.theatlantic.com/>
- PBS NewsHour* election coverage: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/tag/vote-2020>
- Five Thirty Eight* election coverage: <https://fivethirtyeight.com/politics/elections/>
- Politico* election coverage: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020-elections>
- NY Times* election coverage: <https://www.nytimes.com/news-event/2020-election>
- Washington Post* election coverage: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/elections/>
- BBC* election coverage: <https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/c5m8rrkp46dt/us-election-2020>
- CNN* election coverage: <https://edition.cnn.com/election/2020/primaries-and-caucuses>
- Fox* election coverage: <https://www.foxnews.com/category/politics/2020-presidential-election>
- NBC* election coverage: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-presidential-election>
- Charleston County: <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/bevr/voting.php>
- South Carolina: <https://www.scvotes.org/south-carolina-voter-registration-information>

**Podcasts are also excellent resources.

Task #4: What are American Values?

Chapter 1 of your textbook states “On September 11, 2020, the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States,” *The New York Times* ran an editorial, ‘America Enduring,’ that described how the United States and its residents had weathered the difficult year after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. ‘America isn’t bound together by emotion. It’s bound together by things that transcend emotion, by principles and laws, by ideals of freedom and justice that need constant articulation.’ These ideals are part of American political culture-- the people’s collective beliefs and attitudes about government and the political process.” These ideals include liberty, equality, capitalism, consent of the governed, and the importance of the individual (as well as family and community).”

How our national government interprets the meaning of these ideals is decided in part by Congress, the US President and the Supreme Court (& other federal courts) and the people. Using reliable media or other sources, find real life examples that illustrate how the US government plans to uphold these ideals in 2023-2024.

Within the context of the American Government, define each term in the chart below. Then provide a parenthetical citation with a link to a media story/current event which relates directly to the term or terms. For example, ([The Associated Press](#))

American Ideal: (definition)	Media story/current event: (provide link)
Liberty-	

Equality-	
Capitalism-	
Consent of the Governed-	