

Honors US Government Summer Assignment 2022

Due Monday, August 22, 2022

Politics, Pandemics & People

What a time to study US Government and Politics!!! The American Government 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 2022-2023 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](#))*

Government 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—1 BRIEF paragraph).

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?	

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 Outline the US Constitution

For each section of the US Constitution, provide a **brief/general** description of the information it contains.

	Description:
Preamble	Example: Most well known statement in the Constitution; an introductory, mission statement of American principles; declares the intent of the framers to establish a single, national union with "We The People."
Article 1	
Article 2	
Article 3	
Article 4	
Article 5	
Article 6	
Article 7	
Amendments	