

# Honors Government and Politics Summer Assignment

Welcome to Honors Government and Politics. I am really looking forward to our time together next year. You will be required to complete a summer assignment. Your Honors Government summer assignment will be the following:

- ❑ **Join the Honors class on Google Classroom.**
  - I will be using google classroom to get information out to everyone in the class.
  - You can join the class by going google classroom through your Bishop Amat email address.
  - The code for the Honors Government Google classroom is: 3eiu7kh
  - Once you join the class I will share the video episodes with you.
- ❑ **Watch all four episodes of "Constitution USA with Peter Sagal" and complete the accompanying worksheet.**
- ❑ **Keep up with the news (reading/watching/listening) to introduce yourself to the subject matter.**

The assignment must be HAND WRITTEN.

**Due Date: First Day of Class**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [mmanzo@bishopamat.org](mailto:mmanzo@bishopamat.org)

# Constitution USA with Peter Sagal

## Episode One: A More Perfect Union (Federalism)

1. What did the Founding Fathers have in mind when they created a shared power system?
2. After fighting a war to leave a strong government (Britain), why did the Founding Fathers want to create a strong government?
3. For what reasons was our new system of government created?
4. What were some of the negative outcomes of the new system?
5. In what ways does the federal government step on the rights of the states? Why?
6. What is the advantage of the state government making laws for the people?
7. What is the role of the federal government in dealing with state law?
8. What actions did the federal government take to ensure the general welfare of the United States?
9. What were seen as the negatives of the New Deal?
10. Why did the students have to put themselves at risk for our country?
11. Why did the federal government need to step in?
12. What was the reason the soldiers walked the students straight up the front steps rather than bring them in another entrance?
13. Why might it be better for laws to be made by local government?

## Episode Two: It's a Free Country (Rights)

1. What does the Constitution establish?
2. What does the Bill of Rights establish?
3. Is all speech protected?
4. Should offensive speech be protected?
5. Why would someone want speech to be limited?
6. Why would someone want speech to always be free?
7. What tools or steps does the constitution put into place for citizens to stand up and fight for what they believe in?
8. What is the remedy for free speech?
9. Who insures our rights are protected?
10. What did Gideon do to make sure the 6th amendment was protecting him?
11. Why would someone need a lawyer?
12. What is the responsibility of a court appointed attorney?
13. Which part of the Constitution guarantees your right to a fair trial?
14. What exactly does the First Amendment say about religion? Hint: there are TWO parts.
15. What does Eminent Domain mean?
16. For what reason can the government take away the property of citizens and what part of the Constitution gives the government the right to do this?
17. How has our understanding of our rights changed over time?
18. Why does it seem like the definitions to our rights change over time?
19. When and where can you be searched without a warrant?
20. Is technology putting cracks in the Bill of Rights? Where?

## Episode Three: Created Equal (Equality)

1. The 14th Amendment tries to incorporate the words of the Declaration into the Constitution. Compare and contrast the Declaration of Independence and Constitution. Do we have more to incorporate?
2. 13th Amendment
  - What it says:
  - What it means:
  - Rights it guarantees:
3. 14th Amendment
  - What it says:
  - What it means:
  - Rights it guarantees:
4. 15th Amendment
  - What it says:
  - What it means:
  - Rights it guarantees:
5. What types of inequality will the 14th amendment allow? Do you agree with this? Where should those limits be?
6. What three amendments expanded voting rights in the United States?
7. Why would the 14th Amendment take away someone's rights, when it was meant to protect them? Do you think that this is fair?
8. What is the reason for Affirmative Action?
9. Why was it established and how does it protect the rights of the minority?
10. What have been the unintended consequences of Affirmative Action?
11. What are the limits on the 14th Amendment? Should there be any? Does the 14th Amendment apply outside the country?
12. Where does the right to privacy begin and end?
13. Where in the 14th amendment is economic liberty spelled out?

#### **Episode Four: Built to Last (We the People)**

1. What are the pros and cons of how Iceland is writing their new constitution?
2. How did the Founders give the Constitution the ability to change? What are these changes called and what do they do?
3. What part of the Constitution spells out how to change the Constitution? Is change easy?
4. Why would you want to change the Constitution?
5. Amendments are not the only way to change rights. What are other ways rights can change?
6. How did the President change the law to support women's rights?
7. How did Congress change the law to protect women's rights?
8. How did the courts change the law to protect women's rights?
9. What ensures that one branch does not gain too much power?
10. Congress set up an investigation on the president, but who ordered Richard Nixon to turn over the full transcripts of his secret taping system?
11. What are the steps of understanding the law, as described by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor? She spells out three basic steps.
  - To Be \_\_\_\_\_
  - To Read \_\_\_\_\_
  - To Follow \_\_\_\_\_
12. What does "original intent" mean?
13. Describe the two ways in which current justices interpret the Constitution.
14. What can you do if you feel the courts have made an unfair ruling?
15. In times of war, the executive branch has sometimes been accused of going too far and upsetting the balance between civil liberties and national security. Do you think that this is okay in wartime?