

Summer Assignment- AP Government 2018

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The following assignments must be completed over the summer for those students enrolled in Advanced Placement US Government and Politics. Overall your assignment is about 12-14 hours. This assignment is worth 100 points towards your 1<sup>st</sup> marking period grade and is due the first Friday of school.

1. **Current Events: (4 hours):** Choose 1 significant current event from each of the following areas. The articles should be from a variety of weeks. (4 current events)

A. Areas:

*Foreign Policy* (U.S. Relations with Foreign Countries) (2 articles)

*National domestic policy* (Homeland Security, Social Security, Welfare, Healthcare, Taxes, Education) (2 articles)

*State domestic policy* (New Jersey issues) (1 articles)

*Local domestic policy* (Essex County) (1 articles)

B. Cut out or print out one article on each issue once a week. Write a paragraph summary of the event and a paragraph analysis. (analysis includes your reaction, opinion and commentary)

2. **Governmental Organizational Chart:** You are to identify the person holding each of the following positions in our government (4 hours)

a. **Executive Branch** (Presidency)

President

Vice-President

Chief of Staff

Members of the President's cabinet

National Security Advisor

b. **Legislative Branch** (House of Representatives):

Speaker of House

Majority Leader

Minority Leader

Representatives for NJ

Current Political party make-up (republicans and democrats)

c. **Legislative Branch** (Senate):

Pres. Pro Tempore

Majority Leader

Minority Leader

New Jersey U.S. Senators

Current political party make-up

d. **Judicial Branch** (Supreme Court):

List all 9 justices, in order of length of time on the bench and identify their lean (conservative, liberal, swing)

3. **Research** these debate topics. Find information about the topic and list the pros and cons for the topic. Also, add what **questions** you would like to ask about the topic. Finally, what is most **interesting** about the topic. (5 hours)

**Social Security-** Should social security be privatized?

**Censorship-** To what extent should the government have control over the media (if any)?

**Illegal Immigration-** What should be done about illegal immigration?

**The Wall** is it cost effective?

4. Compare Fox News to CNN write a brief summary of your thoughts.