



AP Government and Politics POLITICAL NEWS JOURNAL

In order to be successful in A.P. U.S. Government and Politics, it is essential to have some understanding of what is happening in our nation and our world. You will need to pay particular attention to news related to government and politics. During the school year these topics will be discussed in class, but it is easy during the summer to fall behind on the news you need to know. This summer you will be compiling a News Journal. You can use newspaper, television, and Internet news' sources to stay informed. Preferred sources include: *The Star Ledger*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and *The National Review*.

Each weekly summary should be one page or more for the week. (NOT a page per story) You need a summary for 3 of the following 9 weeks. Each summary should include 3 political stories. I assume some of you have vacations and other summer activities, so I am only requiring 3 weeks out of the entire summer. They do not need to be consecutive weeks but **one week needs to be from July and one from August**.

Weeks: 7/1, 7/8, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29, 8/5, 8/12, 8/19, 8/26.

You need to type a news summary for each week. Your summary should include 3 major national, international, and political stories for the week. This means stories such as the "The US Economy" or "Trump tells Congress", etc., **NOT** "Kevin Durant signs with the Knicks", "There was a murder in Elizabeth", etc.

1. Explain the historical context of what went on at the time the stories occurred.
2. Provide a summary, which may include:
 - For a scandal explain what happened or was alleged, who was involved, the results, punishments, or political impact.
 - For legislation, explain what issue the law addressed, what the law was designed to do, who supported it and the results.
 - For a court case, explain the issue before the court intervened, the verdict, the key Justices involved and subsequent cases that upheld or altered the ruling.
3. Explain how this story may change our government or politics, and its impact on us today.
4. Make sure to include with each story: the Title of each article, the Author of article, the Date of article and the Source (specific web address) – **Source not needed if you attach article**.

BOTH THE US CONSTITUTION SCAVENGER HUNT AND THE POLITICAL NEWS JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 6, 2019.

Have a Great "Political" Summer!

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**AP Government and Politics
US CONSTITUTION SCAVENGER HUNT**

Main idea: KNOW THE THREE BRANCHES, THEIR ENUMERATED POWERS AND HOW THEY CAN CHECK/BALANCE EACH OTHER!!! There will be a Constitution Test the second week of school!

The Constitution – this is an EXTREMELY important document for everyone in this country, especially AP Gov students! Understanding it will provide a great foundation for the class. Knowing it well before starting the class will give you a solid starting point for the class that will last throughout the year.

These are guiding questions for reading the Constitution. All answers can be found in the [U.S. Constitution, https://constitutioncenter.org/](https://constitutioncenter.org/), or by searching online. *Remember that all responses should be written in your own words.*

1) Describe the basic function of each of the three branches: One sentence for each.

Legislative	
Executive	
Judicial	

2. Identify two powers denied to Congress in the Constitution. Where is this found in the Constitution?

3. How does the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings (the ability to have debates, amendments, etc.)? Where is this found in the Constitution?

4. Identify two powers the Constitution denies to the States. Where is this found in the Constitution?

5. According to the principle of checks and balances, each branch of the government must have control over the other branches. Look at the first three articles of the Constitution and identify one of each type of checks and balances. ****Don't forget to list where it is found in the Constitution!****

a. A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch.

b. A power that the executive branch has over the judicial branch.

c. A power that the legislative branch holds over the executive branch.

d. A power that the legislative branch holds over the judicial branch.

e. A power that the judicial branch holds over the executive branch.

f. A power that the judicial branch holds over the legislative branch.

Electoral College

1. If not candidate for the presidency wins a simple majority of the total number of electoral votes, what body as the power to choose the president?

2. What margin is required to choose the president?

3. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described (hint: there are two parts)

ARTICLE I - Legislative Branch

1. Article I, Section 1: What is the meaning of Section 1? What is Bicameral? Why did they create two branches?

Article I, Section 2 – US House

2. Term of Office?

3. Qualifications?

4. Define apportionment.

5. Define impeachment. Who has the power to impeach? How does impeachment work?

Article I, Section 3 – US Senate

1. Term of Office?

2. Qualifications?

3. How were US Senators originally selected? How did the 17th Amendment change this? Which system is more democratic?

4. What are the restrictions on the Vice President's Senatorial power?

5. Who is the President Pro Tempore? Why does this position exist?

6. What is the Senate's impeachment power? What are the vote requirements?

Article I, Section 8-Congress' Powers. YOU WILL BE TESTED ON THESE!!

1. What are the enumerated powers of Congress? What does enumerated even mean? YOU MUST KNOW THESE FOR THE TEST!!!!!!!

2. Why does the legislative branch have so much power? (Hint: Articles of Confederation)

3. How can Congress check other branches? Executive and Judicial

ARTICLE II - Executive Branch

Article II, Section 1

1. What is the term of office for president and vice president? What are the qualifications?

	Term of Office	Qualifications
President		
Vice President		

2. Explain the president's role as Commander in Chief.

3. What are the President's duties as they relate to diplomacy/foreign affairs?

4. Define pardon.

5. Can the president appoint judges/diplomats without Congress? What is Congress' role?

6. What is the State of the Union address? When is it to be given?

7. List all of the enumerated powers of the president. YOU WILL BE TESTED ON THESE!

Article II, Section 4

1. Under what conditions can the president and vice president be removed from office?

2. Define high crimes and misdemeanors.

3. Who were the only two presidents to be impeached? Were they removed from office?

4. What body has the power to impeach the president?

5. What vote is required to impeach?

ARTICLE III - The Judicial Branch

Article III, Section 1

1. What is the only court established by the Constitution?

2. What is the term of office for federal judges? What is the logic of this provision?

3. The court of original jurisdiction is the first court that hears a case. Appellate courts hear cases on appeal from lower courts. Although the Supreme Court functions primarily as an appellate court, it is the court of original jurisdiction in certain kinds of cases. What are those? **Don't forget to list where it is found in the Constitution!**

Article IV- What is full faith and credit?

Article VI-What is the Supremacy Clause?

THE AMENDMENTS

1. What are two ways that amendments can be proposed?

2. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified?

3. What are the first 10 Amendments of the Constitution called? Why were these created?

4. What is the 10th amendment? How might this conflict with the “Supremacy Clause”?

5. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protects the rights of women and how do they protect them?

6. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of African Americans?

7. The 25th Amendment describes the sequence of events that would install the vice president as acting president against the will of the president. Outline that sequence of events.