

**Summer Reading 2022-2023:
AP US Government and Politics Current Events Journal**

AP US Government and Politics may be more directly related to current events than any course you will take in high school. Everything that we will study strongly relates to how politics and government work in modern America. Accordingly, knowledge of current political and governmental affairs will significantly help you to understand the things we study, and will, in fact, be necessary to succeed in this course.

During the course of the summer (beginning the week of June 19 and ending the week of August 22), keep a current events journal. Choose one article per week concerning an event in American politics and/or government. By the end of the summer you will have completed **ten** articles in total, addressing ten of the thirteen topics below. You may not use the same topic twice. Please note that the following topics mirror -- for the most part -- the overall APGOV course sequence.

- *US Constitution*
- *Federalism* (any issue/conflict involving state *and* federal government)
- *Civil Liberties / Civil Rights*
- *US Congress*
- *The President*
- *Federal Bureaucracy* (in other words, anything on federal agencies or departments)
- *The Federal Courts / Supreme Court*
- *Public Opinion*
- *Political Participation and Voting*
- *The Media*
- *Political Parties*
- *Campaigns and Elections*
- *Economic Policy*

FORMAT:

Your finished document must be double spaced, size 11/12 font, Times New Roman, contain 1” margins, and have a proper MLA heading. Please note that this is *not* 10 separate documents, but a single document recording your weekly selections and analysis; i.e. your journal will expand as the weeks progress. Each entry should be approximately one page in length. There are no strict guidelines, however, on how you organize your work, but please make it clear and consistent from week to week.

For each article:

- Begin your weekly installment with an MLA citation of the article.
- Identify the topic area from the possible choices above.
- The first paragraph(s) should describe the article and surrounding events.
- Then, the next paragraph should analyze the significance of the event/story and state any opinions, thoughts, reactions and/or analysis that you might have about it.

In order to receive full credit (50 points), you will be limited to the following sources for this assignment. Try to vary your sources..

- Reuters
- Real Clear Politics
- Wall Street Journal
- New York Times
- Politico
- Washington Post
- Christian Science Monitor

DUE DATE: Journal is due at the beginning of the first day of class. By this, I mean submitted to Canvas and be well below the similarity threshold of 20%. Anything short of these requirements is considered late and subject to automatic half credit.