**2017 Summer Assignment**

**AP Government**

*Next year, you will be embarking on a wild ride through the world of politics and the history of our government. There will be discussions, debates, lectures, activities, quizzes, and a lot of reading. Although this might sound challenging, there are two ways to get ahead and lay a foundation in order to make the transition to the attentive public of politics a little easier.*

**TASKS:**

1. **Pay attention to the news** – current events specifically dealing with the national/international government and politics.
   * Learn to watch the news with a critical and analytical eye – is it fact or opinion?
   * Suggestions: Any *network* news broadcasts (ch. 2, 4, 7), FOX News, CNN, CNBC, MSNBC, LA Times, OC Register (National Sections), Internet sites for any of the preceding (be sure it is credible!)
   * Nothing will be turned in for this, but a general awareness of summer events will be expected.
2. **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 my class. Therefore, you will READ IT, KNOW IT and LOVE IT by the time you enter my class. *This work will be especially useful for Unit 1 of AP Gov!*
   * The worksheets are attached.
   * **They are due the 1st day of school – no late work.**
   * Your work should be your own. Please **HAND WRITE**, no typed work.
   * You may complete this on separate pieces of paper.
   * **There will be a Constitution Quiz the 1st day of school.**

**GENERAL:**

1. The text books are NOT required or needed to complete this summer assignment. Please plan to check the AP Government and AP Economics books out in August at Taking Care of Business.
2. The AP Gov and AP Econ summer assignments are due the **1st day of school**! \*\*\****No matter which class you have fall semester!\*\*\****
3. A few things I would like you to think about over the summer regarding your education in general and my class in particular…
   * You can work hard in my class and probably earn a good grade. However, to really make this an educational experience you must have a strong foundation of what’s going on “out there”. By understanding the Constitution and becoming an informed student you will be on your way toward becoming a conscientious, contributing citizen. This will help the class be more than an empty educational experience; rather it will be a class that has real-life applications and contributions.
4. I am looking forward to a new year and working with you. If you complete these summer projects, you will be off on the right foot and should excel in my class. However, given the intensity of the class relaxation will benefit you as well. So enjoy your vacation and be ready to go in the fall! I hope you will acquire the same passion I have for politics, and government through the year!
5. Please email me with any questions: [srommelfanger@orangeusd.org](mailto:srommelfanger@orangeusd.org) I will check often over the summer, but not every day. So please do not wait until the last minute to ask questions.

**AP** **GOVERNMENT – The United States Constitution:** Read the entire Constitution (it can be found at www.constitutioncenter.org ). Summarize the purpose of each of the articles in one or two sentences each.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Article 1 |  |
| Article 2 |  |
| Article 3 |  |
| Article 4 |  |
| Article 5 |  |
| Article 6 |  |
| Article 7 |  |

Answer the following questions as they relate to the Constitution.

1. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the House of Representatives?

2. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the Senate?

3. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for the President?

4. The powers of the Constitution that are **specifically** granted to the branches of government or to office holders are called *expressed powers*.

a. Identify two expressed powers of the President.

b. What are the expressed powers of the Vice President?

c. Identify two expressed powers of the Senate.

d. Identify two expressed powers of the House of Representatives.

5. According to the principal of checks and balances, each branch of government must have some method of control over the other branches. Look at the first three articles of the Constitution and identify one of each type of checks and balances. Indicate where each power is found in the Constitution.

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

This power is found in what article/section of the Constitution?

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

This power is found in what article/section of the Constitution?

c. A power that the legislative branch has over the executive branch:

This power is found in what article/section of the Constitution?

d. A power that the legislative branch has over the judicial branch:

This power is found in what article/section of the Constitution?

e. A power that the judicial branch has over the executive branch:

This power is found in what article/section of the Constitution?

f. A power that the judicial branch has over the legislative branch:

This power is found in what article/section of the Constitution?

6. According to Article I of the Constitution, who has the power to declare war?

7. What power does the Constitution give the President in the area of the military?

8. What conflict arises due to the separation of powers that you have listed in answers #6 and #7?

9. The Constitution requires a simple majority for some actions in Congress and a super majority for others. A simple majority means one more than half, while a super majority requirements can involve a 2/3 majority or a 3/4 majority. Most elections in the United States require a plurality, or the most votes, but not necessarily a majority.

a. What bodies have the power to override a Presidential veto?

b. What margin is required to override a presidential veto?

c. Where in the Constitution is the veto power described?

10. Treaties.

a. What body has the power to ratify treaties?

b. What margin is required to ratify treaties?

c. Where in the Constitution is the ratification power described?

11. To impeach means “to bring charges against” or “to indict”.

a. What body has the power to impeach the President?

b. What is the margin required to impeach the President?

c. Where in the Constitution if the power to impeach the President described?

12. An impeached president is not automatically convicted and removed.

a. What body has the power to convict the president of charges brought against him in an impeachment process and thereby remove him from office?

b. What margin is required to convict and remove the President?

c. Where in the Constitution can the removal of a President be found?

13. Judicial Nominations.

a. What body has the power to accept or reject a president’s nominations to the Supreme Court?

b. What margin is required to elevate a President’s nominee to a seat on the Supreme Court?

c. Where in the Constitution are judicial nominations described?

14. Winning the Presidency.

a. If no candidate for the Presidency wins a simple majority of the total number of electoral votes, what body has the power to choose the President?

b. What margin is required to choose the President?

c. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described? (Hint: there are two parts.)

15. The Constitution specifies a 3/4 majority for just one process, what?

16. See Article VI (6). Explain the Supremacy Clause in your own words.

17. What are the two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be proposed?

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

19. Take a close look at the commerce clause. Restate it in your own words and summarize its purpose.

20. Take a close look at the necessary & proper clause (AKA elastic clause) and the 10th amendment. How might these conflict?

21. The Constitution outline some obligations of the state governments. Understand what they are and how they relate to Federalism.

1. Full Faith and Credit Clause:

1. Privileges and Immunities Clause:

1. Extradition

22. How were United States Senators chosen before the 17th amendment?

23. How many times is the word PRIVACY mentioned in the Constitution (Articles & Amendments)?

24. Which amendments take away any rights of the people?

25. If you could amend (add to or take away) anything to the Constitution what would it be?

1. Given what you have learned about the process of amending the Constitution, do you think there is a chance this could happen with your proposed amendment?

26. Where in the Constitution are Political Parties mentioned?

**The Amendments:** ***Create Flash Cards for all 27 amendments.***

* These will also be collected on the 1st day of school.