

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, 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.
 - o Learn to watch the news with a critical and analytical eye – is it fact or opinion?
 - o Suggestions: Any *network national* 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!)
 - o Nothing will be turned in for this, but a general awareness of summer events will be expected.
 - o **There will be a Current Event Quiz on the 1st day of school.** You will be given some political cartoons depicting the summer's top events. You will have to identify and describe the event referenced in the cartoons.
2. **The Federal Government Fact Sheet** - this is designed to help you understand our recent government and current government. Having a general idea of our current leadership will give you a step ahead in AP Gov and Politics.
 - o The questions are attached. Please complete on a separate piece of paper.
 - o Your work must be your own. Please **HAND WRITE**, no typed work.
 - o **There will be a quiz on the *current* federal government people and positions.**

GENERAL:

3. The textbooks 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.
4. The AP Gov and AP Econ summer assignments are due the **1st day of school!**
*****No matter which class you have fall semester!*****
5. A few things I would like you to think about over the summer regarding your education in general and my class in particular...
 - o 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.
6. 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 and your senior year 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!
7. Please email me with any questions: 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.

Federal Government Fact Sheet

The Current Federal Government

Find the answers below on the Internet (or maybe you already know them!). List their name and political party preference (if applicable).

1. The President
2. The Vice President
3. Secretary of State
4. Secretary of Defense
5. The Attorney General
6. The Speaker of the House
7. The US Representative that represents the area you live in and the district number
8. The majority party of the House
9. The Majority Leader of the Senate
10. The 2 US Senators from California
11. The majority party of the Senate
12. The current term and session of Congress
13. The current number of members in Congress (House + Senate=Congress)
14. All nine Justices of the Supreme Court
15. The date of Election Day.