

U.S. Government and Politics – SUMMER ASSIGNMENT!

DUE Tuesday, September 5th



As engaged citizens of the United States, our goals are two-fold:

1. To be informed about *what* is happening with our government and political culture, and
2. To be media savvy and know *where* to find reputable news reporting.

Your first assignment for AP U.S. Government and Politics course is to follow political news over the summer! Your assignment is to locate, summarize, and analyze **EIGHT (8) current NATIONAL news stories** reported or published on any date **between June 18th and September 4th, 2018**. News stories can be found via online or print newspapers or television or online video news reports. Use the News Journal pages to cite your sources and dates and report on **one story for EACH of the following topics:**

1. **POLITICAL** issues (examples of story topics: elections and campaigns, individual candidates, political parties, partisan politics, etc., etc.)
2. **ECONOMIC** issues (ex: Wall Street, jobs, unemployment, business, taxes, recession, oil prices, economic classes (i.e. working-class or middle-class issues), etc.)
3. **SOCIAL** or **DOMESTIC** issues (ex: civil rights, race relations, gender equality, LGBT issues, immigration, abortion, free speech, crime, etc.)
4. **FOREIGN POLICY** (ex: military operations, diplomacy, War on Terror, North Korea, Middle East, Latin America, basically U.S. involvement or interest or policy involving any other country)
5. **U.S. SUPREME COURT** (ex: news report on impact of Supreme Court decisions, cases that are being petitioned to the Supreme Court, cases the Court has rejected, anniversaries of famous cases, etc.)
6. **PRESIDENT AND/OR BUREAUCRACY** (ex: president making a proclamation, bureaucratic agency doing something (examples: CIA, FBI, EPA, FDA, NSA, the Fed, FEC, FCC, etc.), a cabinet secretary or department doing something (Secretary/Department of: State, Homeland Security, Defense, Education, etc.)
7. **CONGRESS** (ex. Congress making or passing laws, Congressional leadership such as the Speaker of the House, Senate Majority/Minority leaders, Congressional investigation, etc.)
(Note: Issues #1-7 above should focus on NATIONAL issues and policy.)
8. **STATE or LOCAL:** One article on any topic of your choice, focused on either the state or local level (ex: statewide or local environmental issue, the California economy, the drought and water issues, local schools, state- or local-level elections or ballot measures, etc.)

**Be aware that there may be some overlap. For example, you may find a political article that is also about the president. That article will count for only one topic. You may choose for which it fits best.*

Where to find reputable sources for news articles and video segments??

- National news outlets such as CNN, NPR, PBS, or network news (ABC / NBC / CBS).
- Nationally-read newspapers such as *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and large city/state papers such as *Los Angeles Times* or *San Francisco Chronicle*.
- Magazines (both print and online) sometimes provide more in-depth investigative reporting on an issue, though some can have a clear political bias or slant (*The Atlantic*, *New Yorker*, *TIME*, *Newsweek*, *The Economist*, *Mother Jones*).

Complete the News Journal worksheets by Tuesday, September 4th. You will submit these on the first day of school.

Name _____

AP U.S. Government/Politics 2018 Summer Political News Journal

News Story Summary (50-100 words):	POLITICAL News Story Title:	Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
	News Source:	
	Date of News Item:	
	URL link to News Item (or make copy of print article):	
	On a scale of 1-5 (1 = not at all trustworthy and/or biased and 5 = very trustworthy and balanced view) how credible/trustworth/unbiased is your source? Explain your selection.	

News Story Summary (50-100 words):	ECONOMIC News Story Title:	Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
	News Source:	
	Date of News Item:	
	URL link to News Item (or make copy of print article):	
	On a scale of 1-5 (1 = not at all trustworthy and/or biased and 5 = very trustworthy and balanced view) how credible/trustworth/unbiased is your source? Explain your selection.	

News Story Summary (50-100 words):	DOMESTIC/SOCIAL News Story Title:	Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
	News Source:	
	Date of News Item:	
	URL link to News Item (or make copy of print article):	
	On a scale of 1-5 (1 = not at all trustworthy and/or biased and 5 = very trustworthy and balanced view) how credible/trustworth/unbiased is your source? Explain your selection.	

News Story Summary (50-100 words):	FOREIGN POLICY News Story Title:	Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
	News Source:	
	Date of News Item:	
	URL link to News Item (or make copy of print article):	
	On a scale of 1-5 (1 = not at all trustworthy and/or biased and 5 = very trustworthy and balanced view) how credible/trustworth/unbiased is your source? Explain your selection.	

News Story Summary (50-100 words):	SUPREME COURT News Story Title:	Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
	News Source:	
	Date of News Item:	
	URL link to News Item (or make copy of print article):	
	On a scale of 1-5 (1 = not at all trustworthy and/or biased and 5 = very trustworthy and balanced view) how credible/trustworth/unbiased is your source? Explain your selection.	

News Story Summary (50-100 words):	PRESIDENT/BUREAUCRACY News Story Title:	Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
	News Source:	
	Date of News Item:	
	URL link to News Item (or make copy of print article):	
	On a scale of 1-5 (1 = not at all trustworthy and/or biased and 5 = very trustworthy and balanced view) how credible/trustworth/unbiased is your source? Explain your selection.	

News Story Summary (50-100 words):	CONGRESS News Story Title:	Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
	News Source:	
	Date of News Item:	
	URL link to News Item (or make copy of print article):	
	On a scale of 1-5 (1 = not at all trustworthy and/or biased and 5 = very trustworthy and balanced view) how credible/trustworth/unbiased is your source? Explain your selection.	

News Story Summary (50-100 words):	STATE/LOCAL News Story Title:	Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
	News Source:	
	Date of News Item:	
	URL link to News Item (or make copy of print article):	
	On a scale of 1-5 (1 = not at all trustworthy and/or biased and 5 = very trustworthy and balanced view) how credible/trustworth/unbiased is your source? Explain your selection.	