

AP U.S. Government and Politics /Summer Reading Assignment Summer 2017

Dear AP Government Student,

In addition to the two books that you will read this summer, [Salt to the Sea](#) and [The Supremes' Greatest Hits](#), you are required to do the following:

A. Follow the News

1. By August 1 at the latest, select one national (involving the federal government) news story to track.
2. Draft, type and print a brief summary (**one to two pages**) of the progress of your story through August. Include references to at least two news sources that you consulted. **This is due at the beginning of the first class. It will be collected.**
3. Be prepared to discuss the significance of and take a stand on your stories.

In choosing stories and sources, please keep in mind the following: Look for quality. Good sources include the following:

- Print: *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Business Week*, *Time Magazine*.
 - Radio: National Public Radio (NPR) (WBUR-90.9 or WGBH-89.7), BBC (on NPR)
 - TV: PBS *NewsHour*, Sunday morning talk shows (*Meet the Press*, *This Week*), PBS talk shows (*McLaughlin Report*, *Washington Week*)
- a. Assemble a balance of perspectives in your sources. Look for some that lean left and some that lean right (MSNBC versus Fox News). How can you tell?
 - b. Focus on hard news, in-depth reporting and opinion. Draw your stories from the front page and editorial sections.
 - c. Educate yourself on both sides of the issue. What are the arguments for? Against?

B. Read and Outline/Summarize the Text

1. **Please see me to receive your text before you leave for the year.**
2. Read and outline pp. 3-43. Your outline can be either handwritten or typed. It should summarize the main points of these pages. **This is due at the beginning of the first class. It will be checked.**

I will be checking my email periodically. Please feel free to contact me at jomalley@bluehills.org with any questions or concerns.

Have a wonderful summer! I look forward to a terrific year next year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. O'Malley

AP U.S. Government Summer 2017 Assignments

1. Read and do essay on Salt to the Sea (assignment attached).
2. Reade and do essay on The Supremes' Greatest Hits (assignment attached).
3. Read and outline pp. 3-43 of text in your notebook (handwritten).
4. Follow and report on a current news story involving the federal government (assignment attached).

Social Studies

Summer Reading 2017 Grade 12 AP United States Government & Politics

In addition to the general grade 12 summer reading requirement, all AP U.S. Government students are required to read The Supremes' Greatest Hits, by Michael G. Trachtman, published by Sterling Publishing Co., New York (2016) (ISBN 978-1-4549-2077-9). Your reading will be evaluated as follows:

1. All students will be expected to participate in brief class discussion/ activities based on the book during the first week of classes in September.
2. All students must submit a **typed double-spaced minimum one to two page essay** responding to the prompt below for the first class meeting in September.

The essay grade will count as a quiz grade on your first term government grade.

1. According to the introduction of the book, there are two ways that the Supreme Court keeps the Constitution alive. Briefly describe these two ways in your own words.
2. Choose two of the cases described in the book to illustrate each of the two ways that the Court keeps the Constitution alive:
 - A. Explain what happened in each case.
 - B. Describe how that case is an example of one of the ways in which the Court keeps the Constitution alive.

Use at least two specific examples from the book and include page numbers in MLA format for each example. Your essay must be typed and printed. Handwritten or emailed assignments will not be accepted. You will be graded on the following:

Focus Correction Areas

Typed and printed description of two ways that the Court keeps the Constitution alive and an explanation of how the two cases that you choose from the book are examples of each of the two ways. 70%

Neat, professional appearance, regular letter-sized paper 8 1/2", name and period on top front page of paper Proper grammar, spelling, etc. 15%

At least two MLA formatted citations 15%