

### Assignment #1: **Current Events- Due August 20, 2014**

Keep up with what's happening in the world. This is what makes government class great- everything we do connects to that's going on around us right now. Read, watch and learn. There is no maximum or minimum requirement here.

**Find-** The local library has free subscriptions to newspapers and magazines. There are also online resources like:

Washingtonpost.com

Slate.com: Answering questions other new sources forget to ask

Gallup.com: Polls, polls, and more polls

Factcheck.com: Finally! Someone is check the 'facts' politicians use

CNN

MSNBC

FoxNews

**Purpose-** Develop your own opinions about politics and government. What's wrong with the world? What would you change? Read, watch, and listen to liberals and conservatives. Figure out which news channel is liberal and which is conservative. Never, ever trust one source for your news. Challenge yourself and discuss your ideas with people you respect.

### **Read, Watch, Listen-**

**Write-** NOTHING!!! Woot! Woot! But be prepared to discuss the "liberal" or "conservative" media. Look up Liberal and Conservation if you don't know the difference.

This is a good infographic:

[http://www.informationisbeautiful.net/blog-html/leftvright\\_US.html](http://www.informationisbeautiful.net/blog-html/leftvright_US.html)

These are good videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7rHGydPFjY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJPQTON0Ugw>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLi3U-nPPrbS6Uk6vGaihQ0CjclAIJYcr>

Two of my favorite government youtubers are Crash Course and HipHughes

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### Assignment #2: **The United States Constitution: Due September 14, 2015**

The US Constitution is the essential guide to our government's structure and core philosophy. Guess what? There's an app for it on both Android and iPhones. We will also download one on the iPads.

**Find-** <http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html>

**Read-** We will be using the Constitution all year long. Read every word- from the Preamble to Amendment 27.

**Write-** Complete the attached worksheets

*Read the U.S. Constitution. Complete the worksheet using any online or print resources you require.*

**Memorize:** The Amendments and the topics of each Article

**A. Create a Table of Contents: The Original Constitution**

Read each article of the Constitution. Summarize the general purpose or subject of each article, and then write down the meanings of any unfamiliar terms (look them up) or any bigger questions you have for discussion. This can be a place for creative “what if” questions, too.

Article	Big Idea: The Subject	Details: Unfamiliar terms & Questions for Class
I		
II		
III		
IV		
V		
VI		
VII		

**Follow Up #1** Which Article is the longest and most detailed? Why do you think that is?

**B. Create a Table of Contents: The Amendments**

Identify the main point of each Constitutional amendment.

Amendment	Big Idea: What did this Amendment accomplish
1	
2	
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**Follow Up #2:** If you could only keep two amendments to the Constitution, which would they be? Why?

**C. The Three Branches: Powers**

Enumerated powers are those listed specifically in the Constitution. Look through the first three Articles for examples. Pay careful attention to checks and balances- how each branch of government controls the others. Remember to answer in your own words, and to look up what you don't understand.

<b>Legislative Branch</b>
<b>Checks and Balances:</b> What are TWO enumerated powers it has over the president?
<b>Checks and Balances:</b> What's ONE enumerated power it has over the courts?
What other enumerated power does Congress have?
<b>Executive Branch</b>
<b>Checks &amp; Balances:</b> What's ONE enumerated power it has over Congress?
<b>Checks and Balances:</b> What's ONE enumerated power it has over the Courts?
What other enumerated powers does the president have?

<b>Judicial Branch</b>
<b>Checks &amp; Balances:</b> What's ONE enumerated power it has over the president?
<b>Checks and Balances:</b> What's ONE enumerated power it has over Congress?
What other enumerated powers do the courts have

**Follow UP #3:** Identify and explain two powers that the Constitution specifically DENIES to Congress.

**D. Rules for Policymakers**

What requirements can you find to hold political office in the United States? Fill in the table below with your findings.

	HOUSE	SENATE	PRESIDENT	SUPREME COURT JUSTICE
<b>Age Requirement</b>				
<b>Citizenship Requirement</b>				
<b>Length of Term</b>				
<b>Gaining Office: How? Who is involved?</b>				
<b>How many from each state?</b>				
<b>How many from Ohio?</b>				

**Follow Up #4:** Why would the requirements vary for different offices? Come up with some theories on why the founders would make different rules for different branches.

**E. The Amendment Process**

In your own words, describe TWO ways to propose an amendment, and TWO ways to ratify an amendment.

Proposing an Amendment	Ratifying an Amendment

**Follow Up #5:** Which process has been used most often? Which has never been used? Any ideas why?

**F. Assignment #3: Other Constitution Questions**

1. Who fills a vacant seat in the House? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who determines the pay of Congress? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Any bill raising revenue must begin in which house? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who follows the President and Vice President in succession?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What bodies have the power to override a presidential veto?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What margin is required to override a presidential veto? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Where in the Constitution is the veto power described? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What body has the power to ratify treaties? \_\_\_\_\_  
By what margin? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Where in the Constitution is the ratification power described?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described?

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

d. What margin is required to convict and remove a president?

\_\_\_\_\_

e. Who tries the president? \_\_\_\_\_

f. Who presides over the trial? \_\_\_\_\_

g. Why doesn't the leader of the body that tries the president preside over the trial?

\_\_\_\_\_

h. What is the only penalty that can be imposed on someone who has been impeached?

\_\_\_\_\_

11. What clause gives Congress the most general, non-specific power?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. There are three limitations on the power of Congress to deny people's rights. What are those three limitations?

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. What is a writ of *habeas corpus* and when can it be suspended?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. How were Senators originally chosen? Which amendment changed that?  
How are they chosen now?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

15. What can a president or other official be impeached for?

\_\_\_\_\_

16. What limitation is put on admitting new states to the Union?

\_\_\_\_\_

17. What does the Constitution say about which law shall predominate of  
there is any conflict between laws?

\_\_\_\_\_

18. How many states had to ratify the Constitution? \_\_\_\_\_

**G. Assignment #4 Meet Your Government**

You must tell who is presently holding the office, and term of office and when their term is up.

- President of the United States \_\_\_\_\_
- Vice President of the United States \_\_\_\_\_
- Speaker of the House of Representatives \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of Representatives in the House \_\_\_\_\_
- Your representative \_\_\_\_\_
- President Pro Tempore of the Senate \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of Senators \_\_\_\_\_
- Your Senators \_\_\_\_\_
- Governor of Ohio \_\_\_\_\_
- Lt. Governor of Ohio \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of Reps in the Ohio General Assembly \_\_\_\_\_
- Your Rep in the Ohio General Assembly \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of Senators in the Ohio General Assembly \_\_\_\_\_
- Your Senator in the Ohio General Assembly \_\_\_\_\_



## H. Assignment #5 The Federalist Papers

Directions: Read the entire content of this assignment carefully, before you begin. Then answer the questions after each Federalist Paper cited.

*A nation without a national government is, in my view, an awful spectacle.*

–Alexander Hamilton, The Federalist Papers, No. 85

After the Revolutionary War, many Americans realized that the government established by the Articles of Confederation was not working. America needed a new form of government. It had to be strong enough to maintain national unity over a large geographic area, but not so strong as to become a tyranny. Unable to find an exact model in history to fit America's unique situation, delegates met at Philadelphia in 1787 to create their own solution to the problem. Their creation was the United States Constitution.

Before the Constitution could become "the supreme law of the land," it had to be ratified or approved by at least nine of the thirteen states. When the delegates to the Philadelphia Convention signed the Constitution on September 17, 1787, they knew ratification would not be easy. Many people were bitterly opposed to the proposed new system of government. A public debate soon erupted in each of the states over whether the new Constitution should be accepted. More important, it was a crucial debate on the future of the United States.

### **The Federalist Papers:**

Nowhere was the furor over the proposed Constitution more intense than in New York. Within days after it was signed, the Constitution became the subject of widespread criticism in the New York newspapers. Many commentators charged that the Constitution diminished the rights Americans had won in the Revolution. Fearful that the cause for the Constitution might be lost in his home state, Alexander Hamilton devised a plan to write a series of letters or essays rebutting the critics. It is not surprising that Hamilton, a brilliant lawyer, came forward at this moment to defend the new Constitution. At Philadelphia, he was the only New Yorker to have signed the Constitution. The other New York delegates had angrily left the Convention convinced that the rights of the people were being abandoned. Hamilton himself was very much in favor of strengthening the central government. Hamilton's Constitution would have called for a president elected for life with the power to appoint state governors. Hamilton soon backed away from these ideas, and decided that the Constitution, as written, was the best one possible. Hamilton published his first essay in the New York Independent Journal on October 27, 1787. He signed the articles with the Roman name "Publius." (The use of pseudonyms by writers on public affairs was a common practice.) Hamilton soon recruited two others, James Madison and John Jay, to contribute essays to the series. They also used the pseudonym "Publius." James Madison, sometimes called the Father of the Constitution, had played a major role during the Philadelphia Convention. As a delegate from Virginia, he participated actively in the debates. He also kept detailed notes of the proceedings and drafted much

of the Constitution. Unlike Hamilton and Madison, John Jay of New York had not been a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. A judge and diplomat, he was serving as secretary of foreign affairs in the national government. Between October 1787 and August 1788, "Publius" wrote 85 essays in several New York newspapers. Hamilton wrote over 60 percent of these essays and helped with the writing of others. Madison probably wrote about a third of them with Jay composing the rest. The essays had an immediate impact on the ratification debate in New York and in the other states. The demand for reprints was so great that one New York newspaper publisher printed the essays together in two volumes entitled *The Federalist, A Collection of Essays, written in favor of the New Constitution, By a Citizen of New York*. By this time the identity of "Publius," never a well-kept secret, was pretty well known. *The Federalist*, also called *The Federalist Papers*, has served two very different purposes in American history. The 85 essays succeeded by helping to persuade doubtful New Yorkers to ratify the Constitution. Today, *The Federalist Papers* helps us to more clearly understand what the writers of the Constitution had in mind when they drafted that amazing document 200 years ago..

**Federalist Paper 10 – James Madison** found at

<http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa10.htm>

1. When Madison uses the word "factions," to whom is he referring? What groups?
2. Madison illustrates two methods for dealing with the violence of factions?
3. Why won't the two methods listed in question 2 work?
4. According to Madison what was the most common cause of faction?
5. What "happy combination" does the federal system provide according to Madison?
6. The smaller the society (state), more than likely common interest will occur but according to Madison what happens if you extend the sphere of the government (large republic)?

**Federalist Paper 23–Alexander Hamilton** found at

<http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa23.htm>

1. According to Hamilton, what are the main purposes of forming a Union under the Constitution? Make a list in your own words.
2. Do the majority of Hamilton's purposes relate to domestic or to foreign affairs?
3. Which one of Hamilton's purposes do you think is the most important for the United States today? Explain your answer in about 100 words

**Federalist Paper 47–James Madison** found at

<http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa47.htm>

1. According to this excerpt, do you think Madison supported or opposed the principle of "separation of powers"? (Research this term if you are not familiar with it.)
2. Why do you think Madison held this view of the "separation of powers"?
3. In about 100 words, describe a government in which all legislative, executive and judicial power is in the hands of one person or a single small group.

**Federalist Paper 51–James Madison** found at  
<http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa51.htm>

1. According to Madison what is the best way to ensure the independence of the branches of government?
2. To ensure the independence of the branches, who should select the members of each department (branch) according to Madison?
3. Based on your answer in number 2, which branch would this not work for? Why?
4. Even though judges are appointed, what renders them independent of the other branches?
5. Which of the following statements would Madison agree with based on his views in the above excerpt?
  - a. Government is necessary.
  - b. The people should elect government leaders who act like angels.
  - c. Elected government officials should be controlled by a system of “checks and balances”
6. What would you say was Madison’s general opinion of people in government: angels? Devils? Something else?
7. Find and describe five examples of “checks and balances” in the Constitution (you should have this from the previous assignment, reading the Constitution).

**Federalist Paper 72–Alexander Hamilton** found at  
<http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa72.htm>

The original intent of the Constitution was to place no limit on the number of times an individual could be elected president. However, after Franklin D. Roosevelt won four presidential elections in a row, a constitutional amendment (the 22nd) was passed limiting a person to two terms as president. In the following selection, Hamilton argues against limiting the number of presidential terms.

1. What argument does Hamilton give against limiting the number of times a person may be elected president?
2. What could have been one of the arguments used by those who proposed the 22nd Amendment?
3. President Reagan remarked that there should not be a limit on the number of times a person may serve as president. Do you agree we should go back to the original intent of the Constitution and allow individuals to be elected for any number of presidential terms? Explain your answer in about 100 words.

**Federalist Paper 78–Alexander Hamilton** found at  
<http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa78.htm>

1. What does Hamilton mean by “the permanent tenure of judicial offices”? Does Hamilton support or oppose this idea? □
2. What does Hamilton mean when he says that an “independent spirit in the judges” is essential for them to do their duty?

# AP US Government and Politics

## Summer Assignment 2015

**Welcome to AP Government!** You are about to be part of a class that is both fun and rigorous. Here's your first mission: The Summer Assignments Pack! This packet will help you be ready for this college-level course and make conversations more interesting.

Assignments will be due the first day of school. Do not delay! Start these quickly

***If you would prefer an electronic copy of these assignments so you can type your answers email me ASAP.***

**Assignment 1 is the only one due the first day back. The rest will be September 14, 2015. You can do them now or wait until school starts.**

You can email me all summer with questions.

Join my Remind

Text To: 81010

Message: @apgovleone

You should also join my Classroom Page. [Classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com/join/3n0elcj) code: 3n0elcj (you must be logged into your readingschools account)