

AEHS Advance Placement Government Summer Assignment 2009
for
Class of 2012
DUE DATE: 8/31/09 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

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Welcome to your journey into American politics. The A.P. course you will be taking is designed to provide you with a glimpse of American government from the prospective of social scientists in field of Political Science.

Unlike traditional “history” courses, this program of study is intended guide you toward the next level of exploration and understanding re: the manner and realities of how our political system works, how institutions and branches of government affect one another and how external forces such as the media, interest groups and public opinion, for example, all play a role in the development and implementation of policy making.

Part I:

Investigate the six principles of government. *Define each using one of the websites or books listed in this packet.* Pick THREE of the principles and *answer the questions that follow in paragraph form, you may choose one question per principle (you should write in detail).* Clearly identify which principles you are writing about. It would be wise to investigate some of the news websites to support your ideas. Attach any references to any articles to the final draft of your assignment.

- **Popular Sovereignty**
- **Rule of Law,**
- **Separation of Powers**
- **Checks and Balances**
- **Limited government**
- **Judicial Review**
- **Individual Rights**

- 1. Which of these principles are applicable to our society today?**
- 2. Which of these principles in your opinion are not being adhered to in the government?**
- 3. Which one of the six principles have you heard mentioned in the news recently? If so where?**
- 4. What would happen to government if the basic principles are not adhered to?**

Use current day examples or topical news events to support your ideas. Please stay away from entertainment news! I could care less what is going on with Lindsay Lohan and the like. Your reflections should be based on political news that affects the United States.

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Part II News Journal:

Because of the constantly changing nature of public policy and politics, it is highly recommended that AP Government students keep abreast of the current state of U.S. government politics through the regular reading of newspapers and other periodicals (such as The Washington Post and Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report), as well as the regular viewing of news broadcasts, C-SPAN, and programs such as "Crossfire" (CNN), the "MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour" (PBS), "Nightline" (ABC), "This Week" (ABC), "Meet the Press" (NBC), and "Face the Nation" (NBC), Fox News Sunday (FOX).

The goal of this assignment is to develop critical awareness of topical events in the news. Students should understand that news is revolutionary in nature, news will, can and does change in millisecond which directly impacts the function of our government.

Assignment: You will follow the confirmation hearing of Supreme Court appointee Sonia Maria Sotomayor.

- You should collect and summarize two news articles each week that relate to the confirmation of Sonia Sotomayor. Within your news journals you should have the basic information of the article:
- Who, what, why, when, where
- Please follow the example I have attached. You should include the original article with your summaries. You can choose to glue your information into a composition book, notebook, or you may attach sheets of loose-leaf paper together (be sure to create a cover)

Example (see attached news article)

Publication: The Washington Post

Title: "Sotomayor Prepares to Meet with Key Senators"

Author(s):

Date:

If you are having difficulties summarizing an article choose two key sentences from each paragraph and write them into your own words:

Sotomayor prepares her first visit with key senators. Republicans are in no rush to confirm her to the post even though President Obama would like to have her confirmed by August. Sotomayor is the first Latina woman to be chosen to sit on the Supreme Court. She has been a federal appeals court judge since 1998. She is slated to meet with Judiciary Committee...

You should include important names/concepts at the end of your summary:

Judiciary Chairman: Patrick Leahy (D-Vt)

Jeff Sessions- ranking Republican

Concepts (define if you do not know the meaning:

Appointee, confirmation hearing, filibuster...

Choose one statement to complete after your summary:

I agree with

I disagree with

I didn't understand

I would like to investigate

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Collect two articles each week. You should have 10-12 articles at the end of the assignment. You should NOT have 5 article summaries from the same week. Your articles should span over an 8 week period.

You may include your PART I assignment with the news journal PLEASE DIVIDE THE SECTIONS.

Join the *Washington Post* website (or another news website). The news will be automatically emailed to you daily!

Newsworthy websites

Time Magazine <http://www.time.com/time/>

Washington Post <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

google news <~ go to the regular google website then click on the news link.
Enter your topic, get your info!

Washington Times <http://www.washtimes.com/>

U.S News and World Report <http://www.usnews.com>

Political Cartoon index <http://cagle.msnbc.com>

Sotamayor article used in above sample:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/01/AR2009060103541.html>

Suggested Readings

Decision in Philadelphia by Christopher Collier

The Federalist Papers by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay

Hardball by Chris Matthews

The Words We Live By by Linda R. Monk