

AP Government Summer Assignment 2026

1. Download the Interactive Constitution by National Constitution Center to your phone (It's FREE!) Bookmark <https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution> on your laptop, you will use this site a ton!

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/interactive-constitution/id1147260877?mt=8>



2. Join the APGOPO Summer Google Classroom class with this code **zjmwhbet**
3. Complete “The Creation of the Constitution” Handout (you will need to research)
4. Read the whole Constitution, (all the articles and amendments) and complete the U.S. Constitution: Quick Summary assignment
5. Complete the Important Supreme Court Assignment.
6. Read chapter 1 from the book *Basics of American Politics*, it is attached, and answer the 5 questions on the google form or on pages 14-15.

The Creation of a Constitution (not found in the Constitution, you need to do some research)

Make a list of the Virginia Plan and New Jersey Plan in the space provided below

Virginia Plan	New Jersey Plan
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

List the similarities and differences of the two plans

Similarities	Differences
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

List the compromises that were made and how these compromises solved the current problems of the Constitutional Convention

The Great Compromise	Problems it Solved
1. _____ _____	1. _____ _____
2. _____ _____	2. _____ _____

Explain the additional compromises made concerning the President and the Supreme Court

President	Supreme Court
_____	_____
_____	_____

Explain why the Framers chose to establish a republic instead of a direct democracy

Explain how the Framers planned to protect the Constitution from popular passions include the role of judicial review

What is Federalism?

Discuss the following powers:

enumerated powers

reserved powers

concurrent powers

Create a chart that represents the checks and balances of the federal government. Draw the chart so you will remember it.

Checks and Balances

United States Constitution: Quick Summary Assignment

Article I – 1

List the powers of Congress	
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Clause	Importance of Clause
Necessary and proper clause	_____ _____ _____
Commerce clause Regulation of commerce	_____ _____ _____

Article II – 2

List the powers of the President	
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Article III – 3

Describe the power of the Supreme Court

List the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court	
_____	_____
_____	_____

Article IV – 4

Clause	Explanation
Full Faith and Credit	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Creation of new states	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Article V – 5

Describe the two ways to amend the Constitution (Formal Change)

Proposal	Approval or Ratification
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Article VI – 6

Clause	Explanation
Supremacy clause	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
No Religious test	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Article VII – 7

Describe of ratification

Important Supreme Court Cases- Download Oyez app, use Oyez.org
You can also use the Constitution Center for cases that they have.

Required cases decided by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) provide instructional opportunities to study each case in-depth and to make connections between course concepts. AP Exam questions will ask students to describe important details from these cases, explain how those details relate to concepts in the course, and compare required cases with other Supreme Court cases. Any non-required Supreme Court case that appears on AP Exams will be accompanied by a summary containing all information necessary to compare the non-required case to required SCOTUS cases.

The required Supreme Court cases are widely considered essential content in college courses. Some of the cases may be seen as controversial and some were decided by thin majorities (5 to 4 decisions). Students are not expected or required to either agree or disagree with the Court's decision. While students will not need to know any dissenting (or concurring) opinions from required cases, teachers should encourage students to be familiar with the legal arguments on both sides of leading important constitutional cases and thoughtfully analyze the majority and dissenting opinions.

Students should learn the facts, issue, holding, reasoning, decision, and majority opinion of required Supreme Court cases.

Look up each court case and include the following (the key is to simplify)

1. **Facts of the Case**- The relevant events of a case that occurred before courts became involved
2. **Issue of the case**- A legal or Constitutional question the court considers in a case
3. **Holdings of the Court** -The court's response to the issue being considered in a case
4. **Decision** (The outcome of a case that includes a discussion of the facts, issue, holding, and reasoning) **and Majority Opinion** (An analysis of the court's decision, written by the justices. The majority opinion is agreed upon by more than half of the justices)
5. **Case Implementations** (How does the case continue to affect us today) (30 words or less)

Case	Year
1. <i>Marbury v. Madison</i>	1803
2. <i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i>	1819
3. <i>Schenck v. US</i>	1919
4. <i>Brown v. Board of Ed.</i>	1954
5. <i>Baker v. Carr</i>	1961
6. <i>Engle v. Vitale</i>	1962
7. <i>Gideon v. Wainright</i>	1963
8. <i>Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District</i>	1969
9. <i>N.Y. Times v U.S.</i>	1971
10. <i>Wisconsin v. Yoder</i>	1972
11. <i>Shaw v. Reno</i>	1993
12. <i>United States v. Lopez</i>	1995
13. <i>McDonald v. Chicago</i>	2010
14. <i>Citizen's United v. Federal Election Commission</i>	2010

Basics of American Politics Chapter 1 Questions
(Answer in RED) Answer as you read the chapter

1. In the opening dialogue of this chapter, we discovered politics in an unlikely place- a classroom. Describe some other unlikely situations where politics takes place.
2. How do authorities gain legitimacy? How do they lose it? Do recent elections provide examples of both?
3. People sometimes justify their apathy by the pay politicians behave. Do you think this attitude is justified?
4. When you go shopping, do you notice the rule of the government in your choice of what to buy? Do you see it on labels or availability of goods or certain standards that you assume are met?
5. Have any decisions in your life been affected by government action? Did you have anything to say about those actions? If you didn't, do you know who did?