

Congratulations on choosing to take this Advanced Placement course next school year!

Your summer assignment will be in three parts and all parts of the assignment are due on the first day of school. (unless the instructor changes the date)

Your assignments are as follows:

1. Print, read, annotate, and answer the 5 thought questions at the end of the reading: chapter 1 from “The Basics of American Politics” (this can be found on Google classroom)

2. Analyze the 15 major Supreme Court cases using the Supreme Court Case Analysis Sheet (you will find a copy on Google classroom). You will need to print one sheet for each case and write the information in by hand. All 15 case analysis sheets will need to be put in a folder.

List of cases:

Marbury v. Madison (1803)

McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)

Schenck v. United States (1919)

Brown v. Board of Education (1954)

Baker v. Carr (1961)

Engel v. Vitale (1962)

Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District (1969)

New York Times Co. v. United States (1971)

Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972)

Roe v. Wade (1973)

Shaw v. Reno (1993)

United States v. Lopez (1995)

McDonald v. Chicago (2010)

Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)

To become familiar with the U.S. Constitution and all of its amendments. You can find the text of the document online or in your local library. When you come to class in the Fall you will have a quiz on the U.S. Constitution at the end of the first week.

3. Write a 3 page essay (typed, double-spaced, font size 12, Times New Roman, 1” margins) on one of the following amendments: **1st Religion, 1st Speech, 1st Assembly, 1st Press, 2nd, 4th, 5th Self-Incrimination, 5th Eminent Domain, 6th, 8th, 14th Equal Protection, 14th Due Process.**

Your paper must include the following:

1. The historical background that led to the adoption of that amendment,
2. Why you feel it is important
3. Describe one example from current events/supreme court cases from the recent past that are related to your amendment.
4. Attach a title page
5. A typed reference page for the sources you used (minimum of 2 sources other than the U.S. Constitution, NO encyclopedias or textbooks of any kind).
6. Please use good grammar and accurate spelling as this is a college level course.

Writing Your Summer Assignment Paper

- Since you will have a cover page do not type your name, topic, etc. at the top of the 1st page or any subsequent page. This just wastes space.
- Have an introductory paragraph
- Use in-text citations for: uncommon knowledge and quotes. Use the author's last name from your source and the page number and put this in parentheses at the end of the sentence or quote. For example: (Madison, 85). Do **not** just place a citation at the end of a paragraph of which only 1 or 2 sentences in that paragraph need to be cited.
- Have a conclusion paragraph
- Use a formal style bibliography such as the MLA format. You may use "Easy Bib" online. Include the URL address for online sources.
- VERY IMPORTANT – stick to the assignment! I have asked for the historical background that led to the adoption of the amendment. Do not give me a drawn out explanation of the amendment itself – that is not the same thing. Also, I want your opinion as to why you chose your amendment not some historian's opinion. You may write in first person for this part.
- If you are writing on the 1st, 5th, or 14th amendments make it clear as to which clause or part of the amendment you are focusing. Only pick one clause or part!
- If you are having difficulty finding an example from a current event from the recent past (late 20th century to the present) look up some Supreme Court cases or email me for advice. I consider recent as being no more than 20-30 years ago.
- It is okay if the paper is longer than 3 pages but do not go beyond 5 pages. You will lose points if the paper is shorter than 3 pages