

AP U.S. Government and Politics

Summer Assignment 2014 - Mrs. Hoffman

Welcome to AP U.S. Government! I am very pleased that you are taking the course and look forward to working with you. This assignment will count as a portfolio/project grade (200 points). ***This assignment is due on the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED! All projects must have a "works cited" page.***

If you have any questions while completing this assignment, please email me at lhoffman@berkscatholic.org. Please note that I do travel a lot during the summer so there may be a delay in my response. I will check email as often as possible; however, at times I will be in remote locations without email access.

The study of AP U.S. Government requires an understanding of current political events. Therefore, this year's summer assignment is designed to help you become familiar with political news and commentary. The web is a great resource for this project. I have listed some websites and guidelines to acceptable resources below. You can also use newspapers.

Review of Political Media (All 3 Parts of this Project Must be Completed)

Part 1 – U.S. Political Cartoon Analysis

*** Political Cartoons are found in the opinion/editorial section of major newspapers and on various websites (see below)**

Find 3 political cartoons (they must deal with a political theme)
Cite your sources
Analyze the cartoon.

Your analysis should include:

1. An explanation of what is going on or being said in the cartoon. What point is the author trying to make?
2. The detection of any bias of the author toward the subject presented in the cartoon.
3. A statement on whether you agree or disagree with the author's point and why.

Part 2 – Analysis of U.S. Political Commentary

*** For this part of the assignment, you should use opinion/editorial pieces from a newspaper or on-line news source. (See below for definition of opinion/editorial pieces)**

Find 2 opinion/editorial pieces from different authors
Cite your sources
Analyze the opinion/editorial pieces.

Your analysis should include:

1. An explanation of what is going on or being said in the cartoon. What point is the author trying to make?
2. The detection of any bias of the author toward the subject presented in the cartoon.
3. A statement on whether you agree or disagree with the author's point and why.

Part 3 – 5 Articles on U.S. Political System Topics

*** For this part of the assignment, you should use articles from newspapers or on-line news sources.**

Find 5 articles (not op/ed pieces) on political topics that include the following:

At least 1 article on the Presidency/executive branch (national level only)

At least 1 article on Congress/legislative branch (national level only)

At least 1 article on Supreme Court

Cite your sources

Provide a summary and your reaction to each article. This should include a statement as to how this article expanded/clarified your understanding of the power the institution has.

Resources for Project –

* You must include a “works cited” page along with your cartoons and articles. This should be completed using the current MLA format.

* Wikipedia, blogs, and other websites that allow the public open access to generate material are NOT acceptable sources.

Some acceptable websites to use as a starting point include:

For a definition of opinion/editorial: <http://www.answers.com/topic/editorial>

On-line news sources (for articles, opinion/editorial pieces, political cartoons):

www.foxnews.com

www.cnn.com

www.msnbc.com

www.washingtonpost.com

www.washingtontimes.com

www.ajc.com

www.realclearpolitics.com

Any other major newspaper or network news source

For political cartoons, you can also search other on-line sources such as

www.politicalcartoons.com. However, you need to make sure that the political cartoon is RECENT and address the U.S. political system.