

AP US Government & Politics

Alvirne High School Summer Work 2021

Background

The Advanced Placement US Government and Politics course teaches numerous concepts that formulate the institutions of the US government and its operations within a framework of a free democratic republic. To help us understand these concepts, we must be able to answer the following questions listed below. To help answer these questions and pass the AP exam, you are required to fully understand nine essential documents contained in the links below.

Summer Assignment

To get started in AP US Government and Politics, a summer assignment requires you to examine and answer three of seven questions listed below. Each of these answers should be considered a 5-paragraph standalone essay. You are not just answering the question, but you must provide the following for each question (essay):

Process

1. **Form a thesis** for each question you answer. For example, in question one, you could state the following as a thesis:
American has continually worked to assure that individuals do not sacrifice their rights to an all-powerful government by limiting its power over citizens.
2. **Support your thesis**, you must use specific quotes and your interpretations from each of the supporting documents to support your thesis. For example, for the thesis above I may quote from Brutus I to make the point that our republic employs elected representatives to help assure our individual freedoms.
" In a free republic, although all laws are derived from the consent of the people, yet the people do not declare their consent by themselves in person, but by representatives, chosen by them, who are supposed to know the minds of their constituents, and to be possessed of integrity to declare this mind".
3. **Summarize** your arguments that answer the question

Requirements

1. Answer 3 questions in (3) individual 5-paragraph essays
2. Each essay must have a fully supported thesis
3. Each essay must use the documents and specific quotes from them to support a thesis
4. Citations on a separate page using MLA format
5. Essays are due the first day of class

Question 1	Documents
How does America achieve the balance between governmental power and individual rights which has been a hallmark of the American political system?	Federalist #10 Brutus I Declaration of Independence

Question 2	Documents
How did The US Constitution emerge from the debate about the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation and become the blueprint for our current limited government?	Articles of Confederation US Constitution and Amendments

Question 3	Documents
How does The US Constitution create a competitive (checks and balances) policymaking process to ensure the people's will is accurately represented and that freedom is preserved?	US Constitution and Amendments Federalist #51

Question 4	Documents
Specifically, how does Federalism reflect the dynamic distribution of power between national and state governments?	US Constitution and Amendments

Question 5	Documents
How does the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause as well as other constitutional provisions been used to support the advancement of equality among all Americans?	Letter from Birmingham City Jail

<i>Question 6</i>	<i>Documents</i>
<i>Why has the modern presidency has been so greatly enhanced beyond its expressed constitutional powers?</i>	<u>Federalist #70</u>

<i>Question 7</i>	<i>Documents</i>
<i>How has the judicial branch and specifically the Supreme Court's emergence as an equal partner in government benefited from judicial review?</i>	<u>Federalist #78</u>