

AP U.S. Government and Politics

Summer Assignment – 2016-2017

Mr. Van Ells

Part I: News Journal (due September 6th) – Keep a weekly journal over the summer on current events from the weeks beginning June 3rd to September 3rd (9 weeks). Each week, identify a key political issue facing our country. You can use the same issue more than once, but you do not have to. Find information about the selected issues via television, the Internet, magazines or newspapers. For each entry, identify the source (article, author, date). Write a minimum one-paragraph summary of the content and a minimum one-paragraph personal reaction. Each entry should be one-page long for a total of a nine page journal. See formatting notes below.

Unless you are told otherwise, ALWAYS use the following format:

- Typed and 1 ½ spaced (except for headers which should be single-spaced)
- Times New Roman font + 12 point
- One-inch margins (Note: some versions of Word use a default of 1.25". Make sure you change that!)

Part II: Constitution Scavenger Hunt (Due 1st day of class, September 6, 2016)

Directions: Using a copy of the Constitution, answer the questions below. Use a Question and Answer format. Type your answers.

Article I

1. What are the two parts (houses) of Congress?
2. How often are Representatives to be elected?
3. How old must a Representative be to be elected?
4. How long is the term for a senator?
5. How were senators originally chosen? Which amendment changed that? (*You may need to come back to this one!*)
6. How old does someone have to be to be a senator?
7. Who is the president of the Senate and when may that person vote?
8. Which legislative body has the power of impeachment and which body has the power to try an impeached official?
9. Who shall officiate when a president is tried for impeachment?
10. What is the required vote that is necessary to convict someone who has been impeached?
11. What is the only penalty that can be imposed on someone who has been impeached?
12. Who decides the times, places, and manner for holding elections for Congress?
13. In which house of Congress do all bills concerning taxes originate?
14. What fraction of both houses must vote to override a veto?
15. What happens when a president doesn't return a bill in 10 days and what is the exception

- to that rule?
16. In Section 8, the Constitution lists or enumerates the powers of Congress. List six of them.
 17. In Section 8, which clause gives Congress the most general, non-specific powers?
 18. In Section 9, there are three limitations on the power of Congress to deny people rights. What are those three limitations?
 19. When may the writ of *habeas corpus* be suspended?
 20. Name three limits on the powers of the states.

Article II

21. How old does someone have to be to be elected president?
22. How does the government determine how many electors a state has in the Electoral College?
23. Name three powers of the President. (*Any three you would like!*)
24. Name the body of Congress that must approve a treaty that the president has negotiated and the fraction of the vote they must approve it by.
25. Which body of Congress approves the nomination of judges, ambassadors and other officials?
26. When can the president appoint people without approval by anyone else?
27. For what kinds of actions can a president or other officers be impeached?

Article III

28. What is the term of office for Supreme Court justices? When may they be removed?
29. Who gets to decide how many federal courts we have?
30. In which cases does the Supreme Court have original jurisdiction?
31. What must be necessary to convict someone of treason?

Article IV

32. What is the topic of Article IV?
33. What does the Constitution say about how one state must regard the laws of another state?
34. What limitation is put on admitting new states to the Union?

Article V

35. What fraction of the houses of Congress is necessary to approve a proposed amendment?
36. What fraction of the states must approve a proposed amendment for it to be ratified?
37. What fraction of the states can ask for a convention to propose new amendments?
38. What is the only limitation in the Constitution as to what can be the basis of an amendment?

Article VI

39. What does the Constitution say about which law shall predominate if there is any conflict between laws?
40. What qualification for holding any public office is forbidden?

Article VII

41. How many states had to ratify the Constitution?

Amendments

42. Name the five basic civil liberties guaranteed in the First Amendment.
43. Which amendment extended the vote to 18 year olds?
44. Which amendment outlaws “cruel and unusual punishments?”
45. Which amendment ended slavery?

46. Put the Tenth Amendment in your own words.
47. Which amendment prevents a citizen of North Carolina suing the state of Georgia?
48. Which amendment said that states couldn’t prevent people from voting based on their race?
49. Which amendment said that a person couldn’t be tried twice for the same crime?
50. When can the government take private property and what must the government give the owners? Which amendment establishes this?
51. What phrase is repeated in both the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments?
52. List three rights that the accused has when suspected of a crime.
53. Which amendment prohibited alcohol? Which Amendment repealed the prohibition on alcohol?
54. Which amendment gave women the right to vote and in what year was it passed?
55. Which amendment decided that a person could be president for only two terms?
56. On what day does the Constitution state that a new president shall be inaugurated? Which amendment establishes this? When must the new Congress meet?
57. Which amendment prevents the president and vice president from being inhabitants of the same state? In that same amendment, who should choose the president if no one gets a majority in the Electoral College? Who chooses the vice president?
58. Which amendment requires a warrant to search someone's property?
59. Which amendment gave government the power to impose an income tax?
60. Which amendment establishes what to do if the president is incapacitated and can’t perform his duties?

If, as you are working, you have questions, email me at jvanells@potdam.k12.ny.us