

# **2010 AP Government Summer Assignment**

## **Mr. Prowell/Mr. Stoner**

### **U.S. Government Only**

To all students in AP U.S. Government next year (not those also taking Comparative Government) who will be in either Mr. Prowell or Mr. Stoner's class, the following summer assignment is designed to help you get a head start and be more comfortable with AP Government course in the fall. There are three assignments in all, and they should not take you more than 4-5 hours to complete. The first assignment is a survey of the U.S. Constitution in which you use the Constitution to find the answers to the worksheet provided in the first attachment. The second assignment is a reading assignment that is connected to the first essay you will write, and the third assignment is more a review of what you should have learned in your junior year that will be of use in your AP Government class. You will have a test in the second week of school on the review materials, and you will be issued a book on the first day that will enable you to access the information needed if you do not have access to last year's notes or a history book.

#### **First Assignment:**

The first attachment goes with the first assignment. It is a survey of the U.S. Constitution, beginning with the Preamble and continuing on through the Amendments. It is a thorough review of the various provisions of the Constitution, and will serve as a basis of your second test in the quarter, in addition to additional reading from the text. You should find a copy of the Constitution (google it, or find a copy in a government or history book, preferably one that has a modern interpretation written in English that you can understand) and then read through it from beginning to end, entering the required information asked on the study guide. It does go in chronological order. There are a few points that a bit tricky, so if you get hung up on one or two, do not worry. I will review some of them with you, but you should be able to understand most of what is written.

#### **Second Assignment:**

The second attachment is actually a web site that contains a book by Charles A. Beard in which he presents his interpretation of the intentions of the Founding Fathers in the writing of the Constitution. Once school begins, you will be reading other interpretations of the Constitution in class, but Beard's analysis will present you will some foundation for interpreting the intentions and goals of the Founding Fathers which runs contrary to popular notions regarding their motivations. The third attachment is the study guide you need to use when reading this interpretation, and please follow it carefully as you are only reading a small segment of his book, not the whole thing. Also included in the third attachment is the essay question that you will be writing at the beginning of the third

week of classes, so as you read you can also plan out how you would answer the question. There will be a one-day summer session on AP Government writing and grading that will be announced later in the summer (in August) where you can learn how to approach AP Government questions, because the way you write them is completely different from the way you write AP U.S. or AP World essays. These free responses are very specific and technical in nature, unlike those written in history courses.

### **Third Assignment:**

The fourth attachment is a review sheet of those items that, upon conferring with the AP U.S. History teachers, you would have learned in U.S. History and that you will need to know for AP Government. You will have a few days at the beginning of the year to review them using your government text book, but it is recommended you review them during the summer to prepare yourself for a test on those items that will be given at the beginning of the second week of classes. The items include such things as the arguments behind and the final resolution that led to the Virginia or New Jersey plans, certain court cases and other items of both historical and political use. Please note that what you need to know about them in U.S. Government may be more specific than what you needed to know about them in U.S. History, as they are more political in nature.

### **Personal Contact:**

If you have any questions regarding these assignments over the summer, I will be monitoring my e-mail about once every five days, so you can send me your question and I will respond when I get it. Send it to [Kenneth.Prowell@fcps.edu](mailto:Kenneth.Prowell@fcps.edu) (or they may have changed it slightly by then) and I will get back to you when I check my e-mail.