



LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY SCHOOL AP GOVERNMENT SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2009-2010

Welcome to Advance Placement United States Government! The AP Government team congratulates you on your choice to take on the challenges of this course.

The AP Government program is designed to give students a critical perspective on politics and government. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret United States politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs and ideas that make up the American political reality. At the end of this course, students will have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement Examination in the hopes of receiving college credit. We hope to make this class as meaningful and profitable for you as we can. That, of course, means full engagement in the process of learning from all of you.

We begin with a summer assignment. All students are required to work individually and to submit a completed assignment -- without assistance from classmates. The assignment must be neatly typed -- hand-written work will not be accepted.

We strongly suggest that you begin early and complete requirements periodically rather than waiting until the last week before school starts. Should you have any questions, please e-mail Mrs. Cable (Jocelyn.Cable@fcps.edu), Mrs. Papkin (Phyllis.Papkin@fcps.edu), or Mr. Ward (Patrick.Ward@fcps.edu). We welcome the opportunity to assist you.

Have a wonderful summer!

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(Assignment is due the first day of school)

DIRECTED DIALECTICAL JOURNAL

Read *Hardball* by Chris Matthews

Choose one quote or passage from each chapter – follow the pattern below to help you to analyze each quote. When you are finished you will have 14 quotes or passages that you will use to help you participate in small group and class discussions. Make sure that they are quotes/passages that evoke a real response in you. This is due on the first day of school. This journal will constitute one of your first grades of the year so put your best effort into it. See example from Chapter One below:

QUOTE (Direct quote and page number)	PERSONAL RESPONSE (What I think)	REFLECTIVE RESPONSE (What it says about our government)
Chapter One “Lyndon Johnson grabbed and wielded power, not in the bright glare of TV lights, but in the personal glow of one-to-one communication We will see later how FDR and Ronald Reagan won power through radio and television.” (p. 26)	Johnson must have been a powerful communicator. He was probably a president who knew what he believed in and knew how to share his ideas with others. I know he was the one who took over when Kennedy was assassinated. Maybe he wasn't comfortable with the media.	Every president and politician has their own way of getting their messages out. Maybe today, instead of radio or television it's the internet and blogging. I wonder what history will say about our current system.

EVALUATION

30 -- Exceptional Summer Assignment. All assignment elements completed in the manner prescribed above; excellent research and writing skills demonstrated; clear and concise writing style demonstrated; effort, skill, and neatness demonstrated; working knowledge of political issues evident.

Good Summer Assignment -- No more than one of the above elements lacking in some way.

Average Summer Assignment – No more than two of the above elements lacking in some way.

Below Average Summer Assignment – Three or more of the above elements lacking in some way.

0 – No Summer Assignment Submitted