

# AP United States Government & Politics

## Mr. Kersikoski

### Summer Assignment

#### The Course

The Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics course provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction, that characterizes the constitutional system and the political culture of the United States. It focuses more on depth rather than breadth, and concepts rather than rote learning. The five “Big Ideas” that are targeted throughout the course are --- (1) Constitutionalism, (2) Liberty and Order, (3) Civic Participation in a Representative Democracy, (4) Competing Policymaking Interests, and (5) Methods of Political Analysis. Interactions among the three branches of government, between the federal and state governments, and between citizens and their government are highlighted as well.

#### The Assignment

Throughout the course, students are required to understand nine foundational documents and fourteen landmark Supreme Court cases that will be included on the College Board’s exam in May. Two of those foundational documents are the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Students planning on taking the AP U.S. Government & Politics course will be required to analyze these two foundational documents in preparation for the 2023-2024 school year. As you read through the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, you will complete the attached document detailing these two documents. ***Students must print this document and handwrite your answers when submitted.*** The handwritten assignment will be due on ***Tuesday, September 5.*** You will then use your summer assignment to take an “open-note” quiz on the Constitution and Bill of Rights on ***Friday, September 8.***

#### Questions

Should you encounter any questions over the summer months, please email me at [ckersikoski@wyoarea.org](mailto:ckersikoski@wyoarea.org). I will be checking emails on a weekly basis throughout the summer, and should be able to respond to you within a few days.

**Looking forward to seeing you on Monday August 28, 2023**

Mr. Chris Kersikoski

### AP Government Summer Assignment

Read the **United States Constitution** and create for yourself a basic understanding of the document that contains the guiding principles of American self-rule. Print this out and please be sure to fill out everything, as you will hand it in for a project grade.

Use this website for the assignment: <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html>

Begin by clicking on “read transcript”

#### **THE PREAMBLE**

*This paragraph, which begins with “We the People...”, outlines the basic tasks we ask our federal government to perform. List each one as it’s written in the document; then in the blank next to it, think of something the federal government actually does to carry out this task.*

TASK

ACTION

- |          |       |
|----------|-------|
| 1. _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ |

#### **ARTICLE I**

...outlines which branch of the federal government? \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2** ... describes which chamber? \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out each of the following rules & requirements as prescribed:

Length of term in office: \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum age: \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum years as U.S. citizen: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of representatives per state shall be based upon: \_\_\_\_\_

Which “sole power” belongs to this chamber as described in Section 2? \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3** ... describes which chamber? \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out each of the following rules & requirements as prescribed:

Number of Senators per state: \_\_\_\_\_ Senators are to be chosen by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*\*this was later amended*

Every two years, how many Senators will be up for re-election?: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of term in office: \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum age: \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum years as U.S. citizen: \_\_\_\_\_

The "President of the Senate" is: \_\_\_\_\_ With what power?: \_\_\_\_\_

Which "sole power" belongs to this chamber as described in Section 3? \_\_\_\_\_

**Sections 4, 5 & 6**... describe how the chambers are to operate with respect to meetings & adjournments, compensation, internal structure, rules, etc.... in general, who is tasked with running the House and Senate? \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 7**... describes the legislative process

In *Clause 1*, only the House of Representatives may: \_\_\_\_\_

Refer to *Clause 2* to fill in the blanks:

A bill must pass \_\_\_\_\_ before being sent to \_\_\_\_\_.

If the bill is not signed into law, it returns to each chamber where a \_\_\_\_\_ vote is needed before the bill may become a law.

**Section 8**... describes all of the powers given to Congress. Write each power *in your own words* in the space provided (each separated paragraph or sentence is a *clause*)

*Clause 1*: \_\_\_\_\_

*Clause 2*: \_\_\_\_\_

*Clause 3*: \_\_\_\_\_

*Clause 4*: \_\_\_\_\_

*Clause 5*: \_\_\_\_\_

Clause 6: \_\_\_\_\_

Clause 7: \_\_\_\_\_

Clause 8: \_\_\_\_\_

Clause 9: \_\_\_\_\_

Clause 10: \_\_\_\_\_

Clause 11: \_\_\_\_\_

Clauses 12 – 16 call for Congress to: \_\_\_\_\_

Clause 17 allows for Congress to appropriate land for: \_\_\_\_\_

Clause 18 gives Congress the ability to: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 9...** limits the federal government in certain key areas – look up and define the following terms:

Writ of habeus corpus: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Bill of attainder: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ex post facto law: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Also in this section, Congress cannot place a tax on \_\_\_\_\_,  
nor in regulating commerce favor one state over another.

**Section 10...** places limits on state governments, including the following:

No state may enter into \_\_\_\_\_ with another state or  
foreign country.

## ARTICLE II

...outlines which branch of the federal government? \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out each of the following rules & requirements as prescribed in **Section 1**:

Length of term in office: \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum age: \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship requirement: \_\_\_\_\_ Residency requirement: \_\_\_\_\_

Paragraphs 2,3 & 4 of Section 1 (although later amended) describes \_\_\_\_\_

The last paragraph of Section 1 describes \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2**... describes the President's powers

With regards to the military, the President is the \_\_\_\_\_

The President has the power to grant \_\_\_\_\_

With advice & consent of the Senate, the President may make \_\_\_\_\_ and

nominate/appoint \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When the Senate is in recess, the President may fill vacancies. How long may these appointments last?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3**... outlines three things the President may do with respect to Congress, they are:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Section 4**... for which offenses may the President, Vice President and other executive officers be impeached and removed from office?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### ARTICLE III

...outlines which branch of the federal government? \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 1...** establishes one \_\_\_\_\_

Who is given the power to establish the “inferior” courts of the federal system? \_\_\_\_\_

Based on the idea that judges shall hold their office during “good behavior,” how long is the term of a federal judge & Supreme Court justice? \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2...** identify six areas in which the federal courts have jurisdiction as described in *Clause 1*:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

*Clause 2* ...describes the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has *original* jurisdiction when the parties involved are \_\_\_\_\_

or \_\_\_\_\_

In all other federal cases, the Supreme Court has \_\_\_\_\_ jurisdiction.

**Section 3...** defines \_\_\_\_\_ as the only crime in the Constitution. The Framers intended this very specific definition to prevent the loose use of the charge, for example, against people who criticize the government. How is this crime defined?

_____
_____

## ARTICLE IV

...outlines relations between the states, and the federal government's obligations to states

**Section 1...** calls for states to extend \_\_\_\_\_ to the acts, records and proceedings of other states.

**Section 2...** describes how citizens of states shall be treated in other states.

*Clause 1* entitles citizens of each state all \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

*Clause 2* does not allow \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*\*Clause 3* was later repealed by amendment

**Section 3...** who is given the power to admit new states to the union? \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 4...** the federal government guarantees it will do three things for the states:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## **ARTICLE V**

...outlines how the Constitution will be amended in the future

Which are the two ways an amendment may be proposed?

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Which are the two ways an amendment will be ratified?

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## **ARTICLE VI**

**Section 1...** calls for the federal government to be responsible to \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 2...** states the Constitution, federal laws and treaties are \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3...** calls for federal officers to take an oath, and that no \_\_\_\_\_  
shall be required to qualify for office



## ARTICLE VII

...describes how The Constitution itself would be ratified

States needed for ratification: \_\_\_\_\_ On what day was The Constitution signed?: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Convention attendees who signed the final document: \_\_\_\_\_

For the following signers, click on their name, read biography and briefly describe any role, contribution, or views held during the Constitutional Convention:

George Washington (Virginia): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

James Madison (Virginia): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

John Langdon (New Hampshire): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Roger Sherman (Connecticut): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Alexander Hamilton (New York): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

William Paterson (New Jersey): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Gouverneur Morris (Pennsylvania): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Go back to main Constitution page, then click on “Constitutional Amendments 1-10” (aka “The Bill of Rights”), click on “read transcript” and write a *brief* description of each amendment’s *overall intent* in your own words (not necessary to be very specific about the provisions in each amendment):

1<sup>st</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

4<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

5<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

6<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

7<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

8<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

9<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

10<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Now click on “Amendments 11-27” and *briefly* describe the *intent* of each amendment in your own words (not necessary to be very specific about provisions):

11<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

12<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

13<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

14<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

15<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

16<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

17<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

18<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

19<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

20<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

21<sup>st</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

22<sup>nd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

23<sup>rd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

24<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

25<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

26<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

27<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_