



2020 Summer Reading List for AP Government & Politics

This reading will help you get a jump-start on AP Government & Politics before the first day of class. If you have questions or problems with the reading, please e-mail one of us right away at either Anna.Schottenstein@bexley.us. Enjoy your reading and have a great summer! We look forward to working with you next year!

Miss Schottenstein

Part 1 – Critical Documents-Required

The following documents must be read in full. You will answer questions associated with each document and complete the essay assignment below. Some of these documents are in the *Penguins Guide*. You can also access these documents with the links below. You essentially need to read and annotate the following required documents. We will discuss these in class the first few weeks of school and do a project with them. DO YOUR BEST, they aren't always easy to understand.

- Declaration of Independence
 - <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>
- Constitution and all 27 Amendments
 - <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution#>
- Articles of Confederation
 - <http://www.ushistory.org/documents/confederation.htm>
- Federalist 10
 - <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/federalist-no-10/>
- Federalist 51
 - <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/federalist-no-51/>
- Federalist 70
 - <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/federalist-no-70/>
- Federalist 78
 - <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/federalist-no-78/>
- Brutus 1
 - <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/brutus-i/>

Federalist 10 Guided Questions:

1. What is the purpose of Federalist #10?
2. What is a faction?
3. What is the first objective of government?
4. What is the most common/durable source of factions?
5. If the government created an equal distribution of property, would that eliminate factions?
6. What is the relationship between liberty and faction? How would Thomas Jefferson respond to a regime that attempts to control factions?
7. Distinguish pure democracy from both large and small republics. Note the differences and similarities
8. How do factions contribute to the failure of a pure democracy?
9. Explain the formula for representation in the small and large republics
10. Why is the large republic better suited to deal with factions?

11. According to Publius, what is the ultimate object of government? What role does statesmanship play?
12. How has the contemporary legislative branch responded to factions? Note both positive and negative examples.

Federalist 51 Guided Questions:

1. What questions does Madison ask?
2. What does separation of power require?
3. What does Madison say about the judiciary?
4. What does Madison say about the members of each department?
5. What is the great security against one department growing too powerful?
6. Why is it necessary for ambition to contradict ambition?
7. Who will dominate a republican government?
8. What is the remedy for this? Would an absolute veto remedy this?
9. What are two considerations for the federal system of America?
10. How does Madison repeat and complete the argument in Federalist 10?

Federalist #78 Guided Questions

- 1) On what grounds does Hamilton argue that the judicial department of government is the least powerful branch of government?
- 2) Why do you suppose that Hamilton was so careful to point out the relative impotence of the judiciary?
- 3) What was Hamilton's position regarding the power of the judiciary to declare void any legislative acts that were contrary to the Constitution?
- 4) Why does Hamilton consider the independence of the judiciary to be a vital component of constitutional government?
- 5) What arguments does Hamilton use to support life tenure for judges?

The Anti-Federalist: Brutus #1 Guided Questions:

1. What, in essence, is Brutus arguing in this essay about the scope of powers given the government in the proposed Constitution?
2. What about this makes him so nervous?
3. What particular powers is Brutus concerned about the most?
4. Which does he find most dangerous to give the government, and why does he find it dangerous?
5. Which power of the proposed Constitution does he find too vague, and why does he say this is dangerous?
6. What does Brutus say this granting of powers will do to the States? To democracy?
7. Summarize Brutus's argument concerning a large vs. small republic.

Articles of Confederation Reading Guide:

Create a pros and cons list regarding the government that existed under the Articles of Confederation.

The U.S. Constitution Reading Guide Answer the following questions as you read the U.S. Constitution. Write the question on a separate piece of paper - skip a line and write the answer. Remember to use complete sentences that reflect the question in the answer.

1. Summarize the following:
 - o Preamble
 - o Article I

- o Article II
 - o Article III
 - o Article IV
 - o Article V
 - o Article VI
 - o Article VII
2. Compare Article I with Article II. Which article is longer and more detailed?
 3. Identify two powers denied from Congress in the Constitution.
 4. How do the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings?
 5. Identify two powers the Constitution prohibits from the states.
 6. What are the eligibility requirements for members of the house?
 7. What are the eligibility requirements for members of the Senate?
 8. What are the eligibility requirements for the President?
 9. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or to office holders are called expressed powers. Identify two expressed powers of each of the following:
 - o The President
 - o The Vice President
 - o Congress
 10. According to the principle of checks and balances, each branch of the government must have control over the other branches. Look at the first three articles of the Constitution and identify one of each type of checks and balances. Indicate where each power is listed in the Constitution (article/section):
 - o How does the Executive check the Legislative?
 - o How does the Executive check the Judicial? o How does the Legislative check the Executive?
 - o How does the Legislative check the Judicial? o How does the Judicial check the Executive?
 - o How does the Judicial check the Legislative?
 11. According to the Constitution, who has the power to declare war?
 12. What power does the Constitution give the president in the area of war?
 13. See Article IV. Explain the Supremacy Clause in your own words.
 14. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be proposed?
 15. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified?
 16. The first 10 amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. Outline the general purpose of each of those 10 amendments:
 17. Describe briefly the remaining 17 amendments:
 18. Which amendment(s) protect the rights of women?
 19. Which amendment(s) protect the rights of African Americans?
 20. How were U.S. Senators chosen before the seventeenth amendment?
 21. Outline the process for installing the Vice President as acting President against the will of the president as described in the twenty-fifth amendment.

Part 2 –Historical Background Reading-Optional **suggested if you did not take APUSH**

 The Penguin Guide to the United States Constitution

Richard Beeman, *The Penguin Guide to the United States Constitution* (Penguin Books, 2010), paperback ISBN: 978-0-14-311810-7

This short book is an excellent overview of both the history of American independence and an annotated guide to some of the major documents. Note that we will be using this book the rest of the year, so make sure you get your own copy.

Read pages 117-188 and be prepared to answer the following questions on an essay test:

- 1) Explain the causes of the movement for American independence.
- 2) To what extent were the values set forth in the Declaration of Independence followed by the newly independent states?
- 3) Analyze how the ideas and experiences of the revolutionary era influenced the principles embodied in the Articles of Confederation.
- 4) Analyze the following controversies; what the disputes were over and how they were settled
 - a. Federalism/nature of the national government
 - b. The presidency
 - c. Slavery
 - d. Bill of Rights
- 5) Analyze the debate over ratification of the Constitution.
- 6) To what extent and in what ways did the US government from 1789-1801 shape the meaning of the Constitution?
- 7) Analyze the central principles that underpin the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

If you have any questions email Miss Schottenstein.