

## Summer Assignments

### Assignment #1: *Follow the news and keep a News Journal*

In order to be successful in AP Government it is essential to have some understanding of what is happening in our nation and our world, particularly news related to government and politics. Following the news is **SUPER IMPORTANT** because:

- It will greatly enhance your understanding of the theoretical concepts of this course- when you can link theory to actual events, you are much more likely to comprehend and retain material.
- Knowledge of current events will enable you to do a better job on the AP test's free response questions, where it is assumed that you have such knowledge.
- You will take a "Top Stories of the Summer" Quiz either on the first or second day of school!!

The **News Journal** to be compiled will consist of **5 weekly news summaries** addressing **3 major national, international, and political stories** of a particular week. You will choose stories that address serious and meaningful issues like the "Ups and Downs of our Economic Recovery", the "War in Afghanistan", the upcoming "2012 Presidential Election", **NOT** "Gang Activity in Baldwin Park", the latest "Major League Baseball Standings", nor "Kim Kardashian's upcoming Wedding".

Each of your **5 weekly news summaries** will be a page or more in length since you will be summarizing **3 news stories a week**. For each news story read include its title, author, source, a paragraph summary, and questions you have. I've attached a "News Journal" template w/ all of this info on back. This template is also available on my website for you to type directly on. Visit [www.ponceshistorystuff.com](http://www.ponceshistorystuff.com) and click on the "AP Government" tab.

**Please select any 5 of the 8 weeks listed on the right for your weekly news summaries- weeks don't have to be consecutive.**

<b>6/26-7/2</b>	<b>7/24-7/30</b>
<b>7/3-7-9</b>	<b>7/31-8/6</b>
<b>7/10-7/16</b>	<b>8/7-8/13</b>
<b>7/17-7/23</b>	<b>8/14-8/20</b>

*Below are some respectable print and online news sources you can use to get stories for your weekly summaries.*

Christian Science Monitor	<a href="http://www.csmonitor.com">www.csmonitor.com</a>
CNN	<a href="http://www.cnn.com">www.cnn.com</a>
C-Span	<a href="http://www.c-span.org">www.c-span.org</a>
FOX News	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com">www.foxnews.com</a>
Los Angeles Times	<a href="http://www.latimes.com">www.latimes.com</a>
MSNBC	<a href="http://www.msnbc.msn.com">www.msnbc.msn.com</a>
New York Times	<a href="http://www.nytimes.com">www.nytimes.com</a>
NPR (National Public Radio)	<a href="http://www.npr.org">www.npr.org</a>
San Gabriel Valley Tribune	<a href="http://www.sgvtribune.com">www.sgvtribune.com</a>
The Atlantic	<a href="http://www.theatlantic.com">www.theatlantic.com</a>
The Economist	<a href="http://www.economist.com">www.economist.com</a>
USA Today	<a href="http://www.usatoday.com">www.usatoday.com</a>
Wall Street Journal	<a href="http://www.online.wsj.com">www.online.wsj.com</a>
Washington Post	<a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com">www.washingtonpost.com</a>

***Note:** Some of these online news services are starting to charge subscription fees. It will be up to you and/or your parents if you want to pay for the subscription. Don't worry if you choose not to, there are still plenty of free online news sources for you to access!*

**News Journal is due on Tuesday, 8/23.**

**Assignment #2: Check out your AP Government textbook when you come in for fall registration in the summer.**

**Textbook title: Government in America: People Politics, and Policy ( 12<sup>th</sup> Edition)**

You will need to read “**Chapter 1: Introducing Government in America**” in preparation for your **first test on Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>**. As you read pay close attention to the main concepts and key terms presented in this chapter. Taking notes is not required but helpful; below is a blank chapter outline you are welcome to use to help organize the chapter’s key concepts and terms.

***I. Politics and Government Matter***

***II. Government***

***III. Politics***

***IV. The Policymaking System***

***V. Democracy***

***VI. The Scope of Government in America***

**Please bring these materials to the first day of class:**

- Textbook: *Government in America: People Politics, and Policy*
- College ruled spiral notebook (min 200 pgs)
- 3-4 different colored highlighters
- Glue stick
- If any other materials are needed you will be notified on this day 😊