

AP Government--Summer 2021

Alta Loma High School

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Welcome to AP Gov. There will be TONS to examine over the course of the year! There are a number of goals for this summer assignment. First and foremost it is to "make time" for the amount of information to be covered in this class- there is little time to cover everything in a semester. Secondly, it will allow you to become politically aware and media savvy when you return.

There are two required components: Google Doc typed news journal and a **legibly handwritten (typed responses will NOT be accepted) Constitution Quest** due the second week back, August 16th. If you need a printed copy of the Constitution Quest, please see the library or guidance office about printing out a copy.

All resources are available on the class website at alhsgov.weebly.com - Just select the Summer 2021 tab. **Be sure to open and make a copy of the News Journal in your Google GAFE account- you will be submitting these in Google Classroom with your GAFE account in August.**

To be successful in AP Government, you will need to stay focused and work hard!

Remember cheating and any form of plagiarism are unacceptable. This work must be truly your own and must be original. Do not copy word for word from the text - and do not copy the work of others. Get into the habit of putting information from the text in your own words. Do NOT work with a partner and collaborate where you write the same thing word for word/copy each other's work.

If you have any questions before this school year ends, please email me at ramosclass@gmail.com or Tweet me/send a DM at [@cramosclass](https://twitter.com/cramosclass) (Yes, I am a teacher who responds more quickly via Twitter). I have also been known to share stories over the summer that may be used in the summer news journal.

News Journal

Since a large portion of class discussion will stem from what you understand about politics, as well as how you perceive the media, this will allow you to walk into the room in August more aware of your "political self" and political coverage in the media. These are the two "filters" through which we all "see" politics. The quality of class discussions and how you begin to incorporate and synthesize new information and knowledge benefits from being aware of current events. Hopefully this will also help you to get in the habit of following the news, if you don't do so already, which will be an absolute requirement for the course.

This assignment will ask you to maintain a national news log of important events over the summer. LOTS will be happening over the summer break, especially with Supreme Court decisions in June! Just as you have been trained to do in your history classes- to categorize history under broad



subjects such as political, economic, social, and foreign policy- you will do so in analyzing current events over the summer as well. You are to cover two political stories, two social stories, two stories on June Supreme Court decisions, an economic story, and a foreign policy story from May 20, 2021 through August 15, 2021 You must write about them yourself- summarize the news story, cite your source for time verification, and reflect on them with your view on the matter and an explanation/ justification of your view. Explain your reasoning.

Political	Everything is political- in this instance "political" means stories having to do particularly with elections, parties, laws, leaders, etc. Think Democrats v. Republicans
Supreme Court Decisions	Some of the most important and controversial Supreme Court decisions are handed down in June. Discuss case decisions, their impact, and importance.
Economic	Stories which have to do with the economy directly, such as Wall Street, jobs, business and the state of the economy, recession/recovery, oil prices, taxes, trade agreements, or with social class issues (middle v. upper class).
Social	Stories which have to do with civil rights issues (race, gender, immigration, etc), 'cultural' and 'moral' issues such as abortion, religion, and civil liberties issues (freedom), such as free speech issues, guns, crime, states' rights, etc.
Foreign Policy	Stories having to do with the War on Terror or issues with North Korea, Iran, Cuba, Israel, Venezuela, England, EU, etc

There are a variety of electronic/print news outlets you may utilize, do not include opinion blogs. I will also be sharing news items on Twitter at [@ramosclass](#). Some starting points include NPR, CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, The Week, Politico, The Hill, and USA Today..

You are to create a table in the format below on a Google Doc or make a copy of [THIS](#) Google Doc in Google Drive. This Doc is also in Google Classroom and linked on the class website [alhs.gov.weebly.com](#) under the Summer School tab with instructions on how to copy the file into your own Google Doc account.

News Story Title:	News Source:	Your Opinion:
News Story Summary:	Date of News Item:	
	Link to News Item:	



Constitution Quest

We will be working with the Constitution extensively over this course, it is the basis of this class. In order to hit the ground running, you are required to read it and answer the questions in the [Constitution Quest](#). You will be taking a Constitution quiz based on this assignment the second week of school when we return in August. There are many copies of the US Constitution available online. Two annotated copies of the US Constitution are available at the [National Constitution Center](#) & [Annenberg](#). Answer the questions in your own words.

