

# Ms. Ramos AP Government Summer Assignment

## Constitution Worksheet

Using a copy of the Constitution (<http://constitutioncenter.org/constitution>), you will complete the Constitution Study Guide. A link to an online Constitution and the worksheet is also available on my website: <http://alhsgov.weebly.com/summer-assignment--info.html>

### Optional Extra Credit

This will be your only 10% bonus opportunity for unit exams. **This is completely OPTIONAL.** Choose to read Howard Fineman and/or Chris Matthews' *Hardball* and handwrite the answers to the following questions.

#### ***The Thirteen American Arguments* by Howard Fineman**

Read *The Thirteen American Arguments* by Howard Fineman. I suggest you purchase the book at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). Used copies are available for \$0.01. As you are reading the Fineman book, complete the attached assignment; your answers must thoroughly answer each question. All work must be original. Any evidence of copying will result in a zero. Answers must score in the 3 to 4 range on the rubric.

Short Answer Questions: (You MUST handwrite answers on college ruled notebook paper).

1. What is an argument? Explain, in your own words, the six goals of the author.
2. How has who a "person" is changed over time?
3. What is the "macaca" incident? What two "land mines" had the speaker stepped on by making that remark? What factors add to the urgency of the immigration debate? How has current events been a part of this debate? Cite an example.
4. "We trace our nationhood to the concept of liberty and constitutional order that was unique in the world when it was first officially proclaimed in 1776. In theory, anybody could become an American—and most of the world has tried." What does Fineman say about this? Do you agree with him?
5. How does Fineman use Senator Bill Frist as an example? What does this say about the role of faith in society today? What example today illustrates how faith and politics are intertwined?
6. How did 9/11 change journalism and protection that journalists' writings had? What is the difference between "personal privacy" and "government secrecy?"
7. "Health care was never considered something we owed each other. The system, if it could be called that, consisted primarily of individuals and families seeking care, and individual doctors and hospitals dispensing it." How did this change with Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama?
8. "A country founded on the principle of individual freedom—"life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"—has both a gift and a problem. Explain this idea by addressing past and current events.
9. Considering the work of Hamilton and Madison, how can words be given such power? How and why are judges trusted to interpret those words? How did *Marbury v. Madison* establish all future interpretations?
10. How are courts, laws, and politics intertwined when it comes to the Supreme Court, judicial decisions, and geography? Explain how the 2000 Election (*Bush v. Gore*) can be used as evidence to this question.
11. What was the first currency? How does that change over time? How did Jacksonian democracy change the argument over the economy?
12. How can Hurricane Katrina be used as evidence in the debate between local versus national authority? What does it say about the strengths and weaknesses of federalism?
13. "In 2001, Osama bin Laden did more to centralize government in America than anyone since FDR." Still, "states' rights isn't just a Southern idea; it is an American one." How does the author resolve both of these ideas? Explain using evidence from the book.
14. Explain the argument between "free trade" and "protection." How do the characters of Gephardt and Gore help to explain the politics behind the trade. How has commerce led to conflict? How did NAFTA fit into the larger argument?
15. What is the argument over foreign policy about? How did it begin and where have we, as a nation, gone from there? Cite examples used by the author.

16. “We need elites, even admire them. We even designed a meritocracy to produce them in what we regard as a democratic way. But we never fully trust them.” Explain this idea from an economic and political viewpoint.

### **Hardball by Chris Matthews**

Read *Hardball* by Chris Matthews. I suggest you purchase the book at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Used copies are available for \$0.01. As you are reading the Matthews book, complete the attached assignment; your answers must thoroughly answer each question. All work must be original. Any evidence of copying will result in a zero. Answers must score in the 3 to 4 range on the rubric.

Short Answer Questions: (You MUST handwrite answers on college ruled notebook paper).

1. LBJ’s famous line, “*It’s not who you know, it’s who you get to know.*” Explain.
2. Explain Tip O’Neill’s favorite quote, “*All politics is local,*”
3. Ross Perot’s Machiavellian tactic: “*If you want to make a friend, get someone to do you a favor.*” Explain.
4. What did Ronald Reagan mean when he said, “*Dance with the one that brung ya.*”
5. Concerning politics, what is meant by “*Keep your friends close...your enemies closer.*”
6. Define the political term *Wholesale Politics*.
7. Define the political term *Retail Politics*.
8. What is meant by the *Politics of Spin*?
9. What does Matthews mean by “*Hanging out a lantern on your problem.*”
10. Define the journalism terms: *deep background*; *on background*; *off the record*.

***The following rubric will be used for the short answer questions.***

	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b><i>Interpretation</i></b>	Answers are mostly correct and demonstrate excellent comprehension. Opinions are always fully justified.	Answers are often correct and demonstrate good comprehension. Opinions are adequately justified.	Answers are occasionally correct and demonstrate an incomplete comprehension of the topic. Opinions are sometimes justified.	Answers do not reflect accurate comprehension of the topic(s). Opinions are unjustified.
<b><i>Detail</i></b>	Answers are mostly complete, extensive, and include many details.	Answers are usually complete and include several details.	Answers contain some details.	Answers lack the required detail or are incomplete.
<b><i>Use of Information</i></b>	Answers mostly include supporting evidence from the text/lesson when necessary. Quotations or paraphrases are often included in answers.	Answers usually include supporting evidence from the text/lesson when necessary. Quotations or paraphrases are sometimes included.	Answers include occasional supporting evidence from the text when necessary.	Answers do not include supporting evidence from the text when necessary.
<b><i>Clarity</i></b>	Answers are very easy to understand. They are clear and concise.	Answers are always easy to understand.	Answers are sometimes understandable, but need to be more to the point.	Answers are difficult to understand.
<b><i>Mechanics</i></b>	Conventional spelling and grammar is mostly correct.	Conventional spelling and grammar is usually correct.	Work contained several spelling and grammar errors.	Work contains many spelling and grammar errors.