

AP Government Summer Assignment 2021

Welcome to AP Government! I'm so glad that you decided to take the course. You have two assignments to work on over the summer to get you ready to hit the ground running next fall. The first assignment is required and due by the first day of class. The second assignment is also required, but is not due until late in the first semester, so you can choose whether you'd like to complete that over the summer, or during the 1st semester. You know your schedule best! If you have a busy fall schedule, then you should take advantage of your summer time to work on this project. Read through the directions below and [click on this link](#) for further explanation of summer work. If you have any questions this spring and would like to talk with me in person, drop by Room 212 any morning before school. Feel free to email any time over the summer and I'll respond as I can: lglaros@wscloud.org. If you joined the class late and you're reading this over the summer, make sure you email me right away so I can add you to our Google Classroom page to access the assignments electronically. I'm really excited to be your teacher and teach you everything I can about American Government next year!

Assignment 1: Media Sources and Current Events

(Due Wed., August 18th); 20 summative points

Learning about current events and issues will help to enhance and deepen your understanding of our class curriculum, and you need to be prepared to regularly read or watch news from some quality sources (your Twitter feed doesn't count). Identify 3 credible sources of new media you will use throughout the next year to stay on top of the news. Then, regularly follow these media sources over the summer, and summarize the 3 news stories you believe are most significant in the United States during Summer, 2021.

Access the assignment in our Google Classroom page to complete your work and turn in by the first day of class.

Assignment 2: Community Engagement Project

(Due Fri., December 3rd); 5% of your 1st Semester grade

An important part of this course is learning about the importance of engaging in your community, and exploring issues and problems that our government needs to address. This project is an opportunity for you to experience that engagement and prepare you to become a responsible, active citizen in our representative democracy.

Community Action OR Individual Study

You can choose whether you'd like to engage directly with your community through political observation or engagement, or through service-oriented participation. OR, you can choose to learn more about issues and problems by engaging in individual study of one topic. You are NOT expected to do both - choose one path that sounds the most interesting to you and manageable for you. Once you decide on a project, submit a Project Proposal through Classroom and wait for Mrs. Glaros to approve that (I'll check regularly through the summer!), so that you know that you are engaging in the right kind of project.

Community Action for a minimum of 10 hours

You can engage in your community in a variety of ways, and you can choose to engage in more than one kind of activity. You can work individually, or you can collaborate with other students who want to engage in similar ways. Feel free to help each other brainstorm activities, organizations you can work with, and/or events you can attend or plan. Help each other with logistics, such as

contacting community organizations and transportation to events. Many of these activities can be done virtually.

Your options include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Volunteer work on a campaign, supporting a candidate who supports your issue position or supporting a particular side on an issue campaign related to your issue
- Volunteer work with a political party or interest group
- Working at the polls on Election Day (for 12th grade students only)
- Participating in rallies, forums, protests, or other events
- Actively participating with a school club that focuses on a societal issue
- Community service with an individual or agency whose mission you support
- Organization of a public event, such as a school forum, on an issue that interests you
- Shadowing and/or interviewing a public official, community activist, or other "expert" on an issue that interests you
- Attendance at legislative hearings, meetings, or other public forums
- Holding a fundraiser to raise money and awareness for a particular cause
- Circulating a petition to voice collective opinion on an issue
- Other activities chosen in collaboration with your family and teacher
- Check out this link for more service and volunteering opportunities: [Community Engagement Opportunities](#)

Keep close track of your work

You can access the Hours Log doc in Classroom to help you keep track of your hours and you'll submit this later. You should also collect artifacts of your work along the way. Artifacts may include campaign literature, paperwork, emails, a sign-up form, or any communication from an organization you volunteer with, pictures of you engaging in your activities, notes from meetings you attended, etc. Collect anything you can to verify your community action work. You'll turn this in when your project is complete. Also, after you complete your hours, you will submit the email address or contact information of a supervising adult at the organization you worked with. If your activity is not supervised by an adult from a community organization, then your parent/guardian can verify your work. Later on, after we are back in school, you will complete a Reflection assigned through Schoology and you'll submit the Hours Log and Artifacts. If transportation is a problem, plan to work with someone else who can help get you to and from activities. Plan ahead!

OR

Individual Study for a minimum of 10 hours

You can plan to use a variety of non-fiction sources to learn more about an important issue, such as books, articles, podcasts, and documentaries. You should be able to explain the sources as credible, or truthful, in their presentation of information. Keep in mind that a source with a strong bias can still be credible; you should be aware of and reflect on this bias. You can study any issue of local, state, national, or global significance. Here is a topic and book list to get you thinking: [Public Policy Book List](#) - but you are not limited to this. Check out media sources, such as Netflix or Amazon, that you might already have some access to; there are so many documentaries available and tons of podcasts open to the public that you can access online. If possible, check out what's available from our library, the Northwest Library, and ask a librarian for some good options.

Keep close track of your work

You should work individually and document your work by taking detailed notes as you are reading, listening and watching. These notes will serve as the artifacts that you will submit, along with the Hours Log that will help you track your work. Later on, after we're back in school, you will also complete a Reflection of what you learned.

AP Government Summer Assignment 1

Media Sources and Current Events 2021

Learning about current events and issues will help to enhance and deepen your understanding of our class curriculum, and you need to be prepared to regularly read or watch news from some quality sources (your Twitter feed doesn't count). Identify 3 credible sources of new media you will use throughout the next year to stay on top of the news. Think about using some of these sources:

- Newspapers and news websites: *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *CNN*, *Fox News*, *BBC* (on-line, or read a hard copy at the library)
- Clearinghouse websites (lots of editorials and stories from many sources): www.realclearpolitics.com is a decent example
- News analysis shows on cable news channels including CNN, FoxNews, MSNBC, Sunday morning news shows on the regular networks (ABC, NBC, CBS), NPR news reports and interviews.
- News podcasts: there are so many high-quality podcasts now available that you can listen to on your own schedule (NPR's "Up First," NY Times' "The Daily," Washington Post's "Post Reports", Fox News' "Rundown"). Podcasts have become my personal choice in getting quality news.
- Some news sources require a subscription; ask your family if they subscribe to an on-line source so that you can get the log-in information to have access. Don't worry if you don't subscribe to anything; there are plenty of free sources available.
- *The Columbus Dispatch* - your best source for news on local and state issues (on-line, library)
- Consider subscribing to a news alert service on your smart phone or other device, if you like to be alerted to breaking news
- Be careful, cautious and thoughtful when choosing your news sources. If you get a lot of your news through social media, take a look at where those links come from. Be aware of the political bias of your sources (they all have bias, you can't escape that), so choose to consume sources that have a strong reputation for reporting "real" credible news. We will explore this topic during Unit 5 next year, but you should start thinking about this now.

Identify at least three media sources you plan to use to consume news:

Media Sources	Describe what you like about this source and why you've chosen this source to follow:
Source 1:	
Source 2:	
Source 3:	

Then, regularly follow these media sources over the summer, and summarize the 3 news stories you believe are most significant in the United States during Summer, 2021.

News Story 1: In a paragraph, describe the facts of the news story and why you chose this story as one of the most significant for the United States during Summer, 2021. A few questions to help you think about significance: What impact does this story have on the decisions being made by government leaders? How does this story impact our political system? How does this story impact the American people directly?

News Story 2: In a paragraph, describe the facts of the news story and why you chose this story as one of the most significant for the United States during Summer, 2021. A few questions to help you think about significance: What impact does this story have on the decisions being made by government leaders? How does this story impact our political system? How does this story impact the American people directly?

News Story 3: In a paragraph, describe the facts of the news story and why you chose this story as one of the most significant for the United States during Summer, 2021. A few questions to help you think about significance: What impact does this story have on the decisions being made by government leaders? How does this story impact our political system? How does this story impact the American people directly?

Community Engagement Project Proposal

Complete just ONE option. Turn this in before starting your project, to seek approval from Mrs. Glaros so that you know you're on the right track!

If you are engaging in Community Action:

What community groups, organizations, public officials, legislative bodies, etc. will you observe or work with?

Your project may be a work in progress as you delve into your community action, but you need to start with a plan:

Anticipated activities:

Anticipated timeline:

Do you plan to work with any other students from WKHS? If so, who?

Do you need any help from Mrs. Glaros?

Have you made a parent or guardian aware of your plan?

If you are engaging in Individual Study:

What issue will you study?

What is your plan to study your issue?

Anticipated sources:

Anticipated timeline:

Do you need any help from Mrs. Glaros?

Have you made a parent or guardian aware of your plan?

Community Engagement Log of Hours - Action or Individual Study

Due: Friday, December 3rd

5% of 1st Semester grade

Complete the following chart to log your hours to help verify your community engagement. Don't forget to keep track of artifacts which may include: campaign literature, paperwork from an organization you volunteer with, pictures of you engaging in your activities, notes from meetings you attended, notes on your individual study, etc. Collect anything you can to verify your community engagement!

Description of your activity - what did you do?	Date of activity	Amount of time spent

For the Action hours: Name and email address (or phone number if no email) of a supervising adult, volunteer coordinator, etc., who can verify your work and hours completed. Please let them know that I may contact them to verify your work. If there is no opportunity to use a supervising adult with the organization, please submit the info of a parent/guardian who can verify your work.

Contact Info: