

# ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

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**Part I:** Students need to purchase the following text: ***Painless American Government (Painless Series) Paperback – December 2, 2003 by Jeffrey Strausser (Author)***. The text is designed for 6-8<sup>th</sup> grades, but provides a basic understanding of American government that is needed in order to understand the complex topics discussed in A. P Government and Politics.

Students need to read each chapter and create chapter notes. Chapter notes need to reflect what the text states. At the end of each chapter write a few bullet points that summarize what you've read. Notes need to be neatly, hand written.

A quiz will be given on selected chapters from the book the **first** week of school.

**Part II:** One of the fundamental topics in AP U.S. Government and Politics is knowledge of Supreme Court cases. While studying the judicial branch of our government, it is imperative to have an understanding of how the Supreme Court and their rulings effect citizens of all ages. Therefore, the summer assignment requires students to have a basic knowledge of several important Supreme Court cases before taking this course.

## Supreme Court Case Assignment

### Cases:

- Marbury v. Madison (1803)
- McDonald v. Chicago (2010)
- Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)
- Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)
- New York Times Co. v. U.S (1971)
- Baker v. Carr (1962)
- Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)
- Roe v. Wade (1973)
- U.S. v. Lopez (1995)
- McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
- Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972)
- Schenck v. United States (1919)
- Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)
- Engel v. Vitale (1962)
- Shaw v. Reno (1993)
- Brown v. Board of Education (1954)

For each of the cases above, the following steps are expected to be completed by the first day of class: Jan. 3rd, 2018.

#### 1. Provide the Constitutional Question

Students will need to provide the question or issue that was raised by the specific case. Students will also establish which part of the Constitution was in question (an article, an amendment, a clause, etc.)

#### 2. Provide the background information that led to the case...what happened in the original situation.

Students will summarize the details of what happened during the original issue. The who, what, when, where, and how of the event that took place.

#### 3. Provide a summary of the opinion of the court along with the justices voting number.

Students must summarize the opinion of the court. Explain what the ruling means and what is the legal basis for this ruling.

**Websites to use:**

oyez.org  
landmarkcases.org

These website can be very helpful in breaking down the information that is required. An example of the required assignment is located below. **YOU MUST USE YOUR OWN WORDS WHEN PREPARING THESE CASES, PLAGIARIZED FACTS OF THE CASE WILL BE COUNTED AS ZERO CREDIT!!**

Each case **MUST** be typed and turned in on the first day of the class. A quiz will be given during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of school.

**Marbury v. Madison (1803)**

**Constitutional Question:**

Does the Supreme Court of the United States have the power, under Article III, Section 2, of the Constitution to interpret the constitutionality of a law or statute passed by Congress?

**Background Information:**

In his last few hours in office, President John Adams made a series of “midnight appointments” to fill as many government posts as possible with Federalists. One of these appointments was William Marbury as a federal justice of the peace. However, Thomas Jefferson took over as President before the appointment was officially given to Marbury. Jefferson, a Republican, instructed Secretary of State James Madison to NOT deliver the appointment. Marbury sued Madison to get the appointment he felt he deserved. He asked the Court to issue a *writ of mandamus*, requiring Madison to deliver the appointment. The *Judiciary Act*, passed by Congress in 1789, permitted the Supreme Court of the United States to issue such a writ.

**Opinion of the Court:**

Unanimous Decision of the Court (4 Justices: Marshall, Paterson, Chase, & Washington)

The Court decided that Marbury’s request for a *writ of mandamus* was based on a law passed by Congress that the Court held to be unconstitutional. The Court decided unanimously that the federal law contradicted the Constitution, and since the Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Land, it must reign supreme. Through this case, Chief Justice John Marshall established the power of **judicial review**: the power of the Court not only to interpret the constitutionality of a law or statute but also to carry out the process and enforce its decision.

Please contact me via email with any of your questions and concerns. [Maegan.day@douglas.k12.ga.us](mailto:Maegan.day@douglas.k12.ga.us)

Students also need to purchase **Cracking the AP U.S. Government & Politics Exam 2018, Premium Edition (College Test Preparation) Aug 1, 2017, by Princeton Review (Required Text for the course) . No work is required during the summer, please have this book when you come to class in January!**