

# Honors American Government

## Summer Assignment 2017

### Course Design

The Honors American Government course is designed to teach students how government (the institution) and politics (the debate between people and groups about how the government should run) work in modern America. In addition to learning about the structure and function of the American government, students will learn the skills necessary to be successful in other courses (taking good notes, reading for information, analytical writing, study habits, time management, etc.) and how to apply information across disciplines.

**Please remember, failure to complete these assignments will result in your removal from the Honors American Government course!**

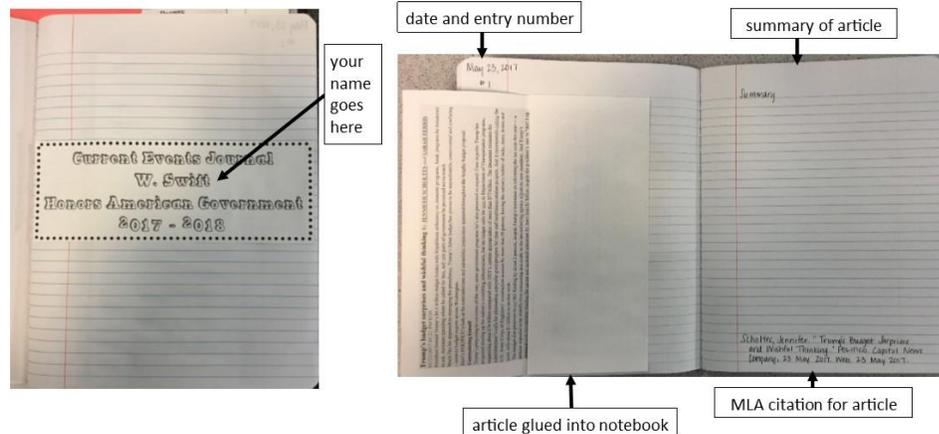
### Assignment - Part 1

Create a journal of current events in American government and politics. You will write one journal entry per week (the first being the week of May 28 - June 3, the last being the week of July 30 - August 5) about a major event in government or politics that occurred that week.

How to complete the assignment:

1. Print/Photocopy/Cut-out and read a news story from a major news outlet
  - a. Print or online edition of a newspaper (Atlanta Journal Constitution, Washington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, USA Today)
  - b. Newsmagazines or political journals (Time, US News and World Report, Newsweek, The Atlantic, the New Yorker)
  - c. Political journalism websites (Politico, FiveThirtyEight, NPR)
  - d. Politics sections of major news networks (MSNBC, CNN, FOX News, ABC, NBC, CBS)
  - e. Articles should be no shorter than 250 words.
  - f. Articles should deal with issues that are of significant importance to American politics and government. Such things include: what the president is doing, what Congress is debating or legislation that they are passing, constitutional issues or major federal court decisions concerning them, debates over political issues in America, international crises or foreign policy issues that somehow affect the US or that our government must deal with, etc.
2. Write a brief journal entry about the story that you read
  - a. The first paragraph should summarize the content of the article. This must be in your own words; do NOT quote directly from the text of the article.
  - b. The second paragraph should give your opinion about the event/events discussed in the article. Also include why you chose that particular article for the week. As your journal develops, this is also the place that you can make connections to earlier articles that you read and wrote about.
  - c. Paragraphs must be at least five sentences (it will probably take several more).
  - d. All entries must be hand-written in DARK BLUE or BLACK ink. Work that is written in pencil or any other color will not be graded.
3. The journal (MUST BE IN A COMPOSITION NOTEBOOK of at least 100 pages). We will be using this journal for the entire school year to keep track of current events.
  - a. The first page is your cover page and must include the title (Current Events Journal), your first and last name, the course (Honors American Government), and the time frame (2017-2018)
  - b. On the reverse of the first page will be your first news article. In the top LEFT corner put the date and entry number (#1). Glue your article on that page of the notebook.

- c. On the facing page, write your summary of the article. Your summary is limited to that page; do not continue onto any other pages of the notebook.
- d. Continue this pattern (article then entry) for the remainder of the journal (see example).
- e. At the end of the entry, give the proper MLA citation for the article that you used (for help, you may use websites like [easybib.com](http://easybib.com) or [citationmachine.net](http://citationmachine.net))
- f. EXAMPLE:

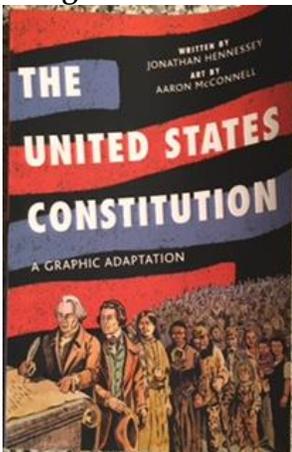


#### 4. Grading

- a. Points will be allocated in the following:
  - i. Cover Page with all necessary information: 5 points
  - ii. Journal Entries (150 points total)
    1. Summary: 10 points
    2. Opinion: 5 points
    3. Spelling/Grammar: 5 points
    4. Proper Citation: 5 points
  - iii. Articles: 5 points each (30 points total)
  - iv. Presentation/Neatness: 15 points
  - v. Total: 200 points
- b. This assignment will count as two test grades.

5. Due Date: by August 9<sup>th</sup>. Journals turned in after that time will drop 20 points each day they are late. If your journal is not turned in the first week of school, you will be removed from the course.

#### Assignment - Part 2



Read The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation by Jonathan Hennessey (ISBN: 9780809094707) and complete the accompanying questions (100 points). This is due by August 9<sup>th</sup>. Questions turned in after that time will drop 20 points for each day they are late. If your questions are not turned in the first week of school, you will be removed from the course.

The book is available on Amazon or at Barnes & Noble (just call ahead and make sure they have one in stock).

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail me at [whitney.swift@douglas.k12.ga.us](mailto:whitney.swift@douglas.k12.ga.us) and I will respond as quickly as possible.

Enjoy reading and learning about current events! Enjoy your summer and I will see you in August!

## The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation Assignment

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Answers must be handwritten in blue or black ink. Unless the question states otherwise, answers must be in complete sentences. Do not copy the question.

### **We, The People – pages 4-25**

1. This book begins by describing changes that occurred in political philosophies (that is, the way people view government, its powers and its relationship to the governed) in the eighteenth century. John Locke was one of the chief proponents of a new way of thinking about government and its purpose.
  - a. What were the ideas that Locke held?
  - b. How did these ideas contrast with previous thoughts about government?
2. The Articles of Confederation was the first constitution in the United States and it did not last long. This book has a fairly dismal view of them.
  - a. Why were they unsuccessful?
  - b. List three flaws that the book sees in that form of government.
3. The US government is built on three fundamental concepts: separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism.
  - a. Define each of these three terms.
  - b. Give an example from our government today to illustrate each of these terms.

### **Article I – pages 27-52**

4. The Senate and the House of Representatives comprise the Congress of the United States. These chambers work together but they are significantly different from each other.
  - a. Make a two column chart, with one side labeled House of Representatives and the other labeled Senate.
  - b. Then, list characteristics of one chamber and their counterparts in the other chamber. For example, House members serve two-year terms, Senate members serve six-year terms. This list should include requirements for office, term of office, number of members in each house and why that is, and any significant powers that each holds individually.
  - c. Define each of these terms.
    - i. lame duck
    - ii. commerce clause
    - iii. elastic clause
    - iv. republic
    - v. habeas corpus
    - vi. ex post facto law

### **Article II – pages 53-64**

5. To the best of your ability, explain how the US elects a president. You may complete this by listing the steps in order or by drawing an illustration.
6. Make a list of the powers granted to the President.
7. After reviewing the list of powers granted to the President,
  - a. Which do you think is most important?
  - b. In a sentence or two, explain why.

### **Article III – pages 65-73**

8. The book says that the job of the Judiciary is to “apply and interpret the law.” What does it mean, to “interpret the law”? Your answer should be 4-6 sentences in length.
9. The greatest power that the federal courts have is the power of judicial review.
  - a. What is judicial review?
  - b. Why is it so powerful?

**Article IV – pages 74-77**

10. The Fourth Article is about relations between the federal government and the states. Describe three provisions in Article Four that either insure equality among the states or assert the supremacy of the federal government.

**Article V – pages 78- 81**

11. There are two ways to amend the Constitution included in Article V. Why do you think the Framers included both ways? Your response should be 4-6 sentences in length.

**Article VI – pages 81-82**

12. One might argue that there could be no concept of Federalism in the US without the Supremacy Clause.
- What does the Supremacy Clause affirm?
  - Why is it fundamental to federalism? Your response should be at least four sentences.
  - Article VI bans “religious tests” as a condition for holding public office. Why? Your response should be 4-6 sentences in length.

**Article VII- pages 82-84**

13. How many states had to approve of the new constitution for it to become the law of the land?
14. Why did the Framers choose that number? Your response should be 3-4 sentences.
15. Were there risks in picking a larger or a smaller number?
16. If there were risks, what were those risks?

**Ratification – pages 85-87**

17. People had different opinions about the new constitution when it was drafted. Make a chart with two columns. In one, labeled “Federalist” list the arguments given for the Constitution. In the other, labeled Anti-federalist, list the arguments against the new constitution.

## Finally, the Amendments! pages 88-141

We will begin a discussion of the Constitution's amendments in class in August. Our study of the amendments will focus on the rights protected under each of the amendments, additional powers granted to the federal government, limitations put upon the federal government, and other adjustments to the Constitution that addressed perceived omissions/deficiencies from the original document. That said, skim the pages that cover the amendments in this book and complete the matching exercise below.

AMENDMENT MATCHING – Match each amendment with its main topic. Please use capital letters.

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| _____ First Amendment          | A. income taxes authorized   |
| _____ Second Amendment         | B. lowered voting age to 18  |
| _____ Third Amendment          | C. freedom of press, speech, religion, assembly, to petition       |
| _____ Fourth Amendment         | D. slavery abolished   |
| _____ Fifth Amendment          | E. popular election of senators                                    |
| _____ Sixth Amendment          | F. limits on Presidential terms of office                          |
| _____ Seventh Amendment        | G. right to trial by jury  |
| _____ Eighth Amendment         | H. changes manner of choosing president and vice-president         |
| _____ Ninth Amendment          | I. right to keep and bear arms                                     |
| _____ Tenth Amendment          | J. race no bar to voting rights                                    |
| _____ Eleventh Amendment       | K. prevents excessive bail or cruel punishment                     |
| _____ Twelfth Amendment        | L. citizenship rights not to be abridged                           |
| _____ Thirteenth Amendment     | M. rights of states under Constitution                             |
| _____ Fourteenth Amendment     | N. congressional pay   |
| _____ Fifteenth Amendment      | O. right of woman to vote  |
| _____ Sixteenth Amendment      | P. prohibits manufacture and sale of liquor                        |
| _____ Seventeenth Amendment    | Q. bars poll taxes   |
| _____ Eighteenth Amendment     | R. conditions for quartering of troops                             |
| _____ Nineteenth Amendment     | S. protection from unreasonable search and seizure                 |
| _____ Twentieth Amendment      | T. provisions concerning prosecution, due process, double jeopardy |
| _____ Twenty-first Amendment   | U. judicial powers construed                                       |
| _____ Twenty-second Amendment  | V. repeals 18th Amendment  |
| _____ Twenty-third Amendment   | W. presidential disability and succession                          |
| _____ Twenty-fourth Amendment  | X. alters starting date for presidential and congressional terms.  |
| _____ Twenty-fifth Amendment   | Y. rule of construction of constitution                            |
| _____ Twenty-sixth Amendment   | Z. presidential vote for Washington, DC                            |
| _____ Twenty-seventh Amendment | AA. right to a speedy trial  |

