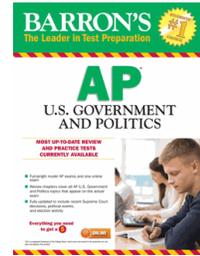


Welcome to: **AP U.S. Government & Politics**

Ms. Avery      [averdoo1@hartfordschools.org](mailto:averdoo1@hartfordschools.org)



**Recommended study guide:** Barron's Test Preparation Book for AP U.S. Government and Politics

The following reading/writing assignments must be completed over the summer for students enrolled in A.P. U.S. Government and Politics. Please read over all of the assignments carefully. Topics for the Political Issues Research Project must be pre-approved or your assignment will not be accepted. Students are strongly encouraged to form study groups.



### **Assignment #1: Supreme Court Cases**

In the beginning of the course, each and every student will be required to present a brief 5-minute summary of one randomly selected Supreme Court case from the list below. Students should prepare for questions about the case that is selected. Everyone needs to be an expert on all the cases.

Cases can be researched on one of the following websites:

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/>

<http://lp.findlaw.com>

<http://www.Oyez.com>

#### **Chief Justice: John Marshall**

**McCullough v. Maryland (1819)** - Constitutional Question: Does the state of Maryland have the right to tax a federal agency which was properly set up by the United States Congress?

**Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)** - Constitutional Question: Is a New York statute that prohibits vessels licensed by the United States from navigating the waters of New York unconstitutional and, therefore, void?

#### **Chief Justice: Earl Warren**

**Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka (1954)** – Constitutional Question: Does segregation of children in public schools deny blacks their Fourteenth Amendment right of equal protection under the law?

**Mapp v. Ohio (1961)** – Constitutional Question: Was Miss Mapp's Fourth Amendment right to be secure from search and seizure violated during the search of her home?

**Engle v. Vitale (1962)** – Constitutional Question: Does a non – denominational prayer, recited in every classroom in a school district, violate the First Amendment's provision for separation of church and state?

**Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)** – Constitutional Question: Did the state of Florida violate Gideon's Sixth Amendment right to counsel, made applicable to the states by the Fourteenth Amendment, by not providing him with the assistance of counsel for his criminal defense?

**Miranda v. Arizona (1966)** – Constitutional Question: Did the state of Arizona violate the constitutional rights of Miranda under the Fifth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Amendments when they interrogated him without advising him of his constitutional right to remain silent?

**Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)** – Constitutional Question: Do Marybeth and John Tinker have a First Amendment right to free speech to wear black armbands as a symbol of protest in a public school?

### Chief Justice: Warren Burger

**Roe v. Wade (1973)** – Constitutional Question: Does a state law which bans or regulates abortion violate a woman's right to privacy or personal choice in matters of family decisions or marriage?

**U. S. v. Nixon (1974)** – Constitutional Question: Did the United States violate President Nixon's constitutional right of executive power, his need for confidentiality, his need to maintain the separation of powers, and his executive privilege to immunity from any court demands for information and evidence?

**Regents of California v. Bakke (1978)** – Constitutional Question: Did the University's special admissions program, which accepted minority students with significantly lower scores than Bakke, violate Bakke's Fourteenth Amendment equal protection rights; and is the University permitted to take race into account as a factor in its future admissions decisions?

### Chief Justice: William Rhenquist

**Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier (1988)** – Constitutional Question: Did the Hazelwood School District violate the freedom of expression right of the First Amendment by regulating the content of its school newspaper?

**Texas v. Johnson (1989)** – Constitutional Question: Does a law against desecration of the American flag violate an individual's right to freedom of speech as found in the First Amendment?

**Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey (1992)** – Constitutional Question: Does a woman have the right to abort her fetus because it is "a liberty" protected by the Fourteenth Amendment against "substantial obstacle" established by a state?

**Clinton v. New York (1998)** – Constitutional Question: Does the Line Item Veto Act violate the separation of powers outlined in Article I, II, and III of the Constitution of the United States?

The following is an example of what you are expected to provide for each summary of the Supreme Court cases.

- Each case is linked to the actual text of the Supreme Court decision.
- A constitutional question is posed.
- In a paragraph, summarize the background information of the case.
- Included in your first paragraph should be a discussion of which article or amendment of the Constitution is in question.
- In a second paragraph, summarize the opinion of the Court. You may use any other sources you can locate to help clarify the information.
- Be sure that your background of the case and the opinion of the Court are in your own words.

**Do not cut and paste any material that you find during your research.**

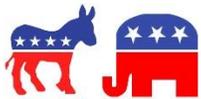
**Example:** Marbury v. Madison

**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.

**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?

**Opinion:** 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.



## **Assignment 2: Political Issues Research Project**

Students need to develop a deep understanding of all of the historical events that impact today's governmental policies and political issues. Select a topic to research. Your topic **MUST** be approved by me prior to beginning the research. PLEASE EMAIL ME AND RECEIVE APPROVAL FIRST. You must complete the following assignment:

1. Explain the historical context of what was going on at the time this topic occurred.
2. Explain the topic. Main part of the report, which should include among other details:
  - For a scandal explain what happened or was alleged, who was involved, the results, punishments, or political impact.
  - For legislation, explain what issue the law addressed, what the law was designed to do, who supported it and the results.
  - For a court case, explain the issue before the court intervened, the verdict, the key justices involved and subsequent cases that upheld or altered the ruling.
3. Explain how this topic changed our government or politics, and its impact on us today.
4. Include a works cited page with a minimum of 4 sources.
5. Length of the assignment should be approximately 4-5 typed pages



## **Assignment #3: News Journal**

In order to be successful in AP U.S. Government and Politics, it is essential to have some understanding of what is happening in our nation and our world, particularly news related to government and politics. During the school year these topics will be discussed in class but it is easy during the summer to fall behind on the news that you need to know. This summer you need to compile a News Journal. You can use television, newspaper, magazine, and Internet news' sources to stay informed. Attached is a list of newsworthy sources that you may want to use. You need to type a news summary for each week. Your summary should include 3 – 4 major national, international, and/or political stories for the week and the source. This means stories such as the "US Economy", the "War in Syria", "Trump Administration", etc., NOT "Kim Kardashian", or "There was a murder in Philadelphia", etc. Each weekly summary should be no more than a page and you're allowed to bullet the key facts. You need a summary for 5 of the 10 summer weeks. Some students may have vacations and other summer activities so you're only required to summarize 5 weeks out of the entire summer. It does not need to be consecutive weeks. You should also include a brief summary of your activities during the off weeks

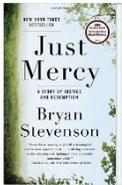
when you're not reporting on the news- examples: Spent the week hiking in the Alps. or Helped build a new school in Nepal.

Weeks: 6/21, 6/28, 7/5, 7/12, 7/19, 7/26, 8/2, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23 Due 9/1/17



## ALL News Journal summaries must be typed

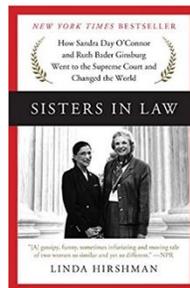
**Networks** CNN MSNBC Fox News ABC CBS News Websites AP Wire Reuters Local TV News NBC10 CBS 3 Fox Philadelphia 6 ABC Action News Newspapers (top 10 in circulation + the PD) USA Today Wall Street Journal NY Times LA Times Washington Post Chicago Tribune NY Daily News Philadelphia Inquirer Rocky Mountain News Houston Chronicle Cleveland Plain Dealer Magazines Newsweek Time US News and World Report The Nation National Review New Republic Weekly Standard Foreign News BBC - UK London Times - UK Guardian Unlimited - UK Jerusalem Post - Israel Haaretz - Israel Moscow Times - Russia South China Morning Post - China Toronto Globe and Mail - Canada Japan Times - Japan Al Jazeera - Middle East



## Assignment #4: Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

Read & Respond to the book. Keep a running log of thoughts and opinions as you read the book. (Informal writing allowed) "A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time."

Additional suggested reading: **Sisters-In-Law**



☺ Congratulations on challenging yourself to take a class that will be difficult. If you have any questions or concerns ALWAYS feel free to contact Ms. Avery either during the summer or the school year. Successful people ask questions and seek support when they're rising above their comfort level.