

2009 Summer Assignment: AP United States Government and Politics

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Mr. Billy Shulman

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- Feel free to contact me over the summer if you have questions

Assignment Disclaimer: There are four parts to this assignment. Each part has a specific goal to help you prepare for your AP Government and Politics class in the fall.

Assignment #1 will provide you with a plethora of information regarding “politics” using great anecdotes from Christopher Matthews.

Assignment #2 will help build a basic foundation of our constitution and our government.

Assignment #3 will get you in the habit of following current events; an important part of our course since current events provide good fodder for free response essays and papers.

Assignment #4 will help you become familiar with the political jargon used by the media and politicians.

More Directions/Procedures:

- All of these assignments must be **typed and stapled together** in order with your name on the front page

- **Copying/Pasting text will not be tolerated**—this is cheating, thus you will receive an automatic zero → Put information in your own words!

- You will have a **quiz** the week you return to school on Assignment #2 & #4

- The Summer Assignment makes up **20%** of your entire First Quarter Grade!

- The Summer Assignment is **due** when you return **August 24, 2009**

- Email me if you have any questions: William.Shulman@pgcps.org

AP US Government and Politics Summer Assignment Grade Rubric

Student Name: _____

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS	YOUR SCORE	COMMENTS
<u>Assignment 1: Hardball = 100 Points</u>		
A. 10 Political Maxims (10 X 5 = 50 Points)		
B. 5 Quotes (5 X 10 = 50 Points)		
<u>Assignment 2: Constitution Assignment = 50 Points</u>		
A. 24 Questions X 2 = 48 Points (2 free points)		
<u>Assignment 3: Current Events = 60 Points</u>		
A. 20 Points = Domestic Policy Essay		
B. 20 Points = Foreign Policy Essay		
C. 20 Points = Media Reflection		
<u>Assignment 4: Political Jargon Definitions = 50 Points</u>		
A. 30 Points = Definitions		
B. 20 Points = 1-2 Paragraph Essay		
<u>Total Possible Points = 260 Points</u>		

Assignment #1 (Hardball Assignment): Learning About "Politics"

Required Reading: Christopher Matthews, *Hardball* - Available at half.com, Border, Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com (used copies around \$5), or your local library

In the book *Hardball*, Chris Matthews defines the title term: "**Hardball** is clean, aggressive Machiavellian politics. It is the discipline of gaining and holding power, useful to any profession or undertaking, but practiced most openly and unashamedly in the world of public affairs."

Matthews supports his observations and conclusions with quotes from a variety of sources. Below are a list of political maxims (sayings), from *Hardball* and a series of quotes from the book. Your task is to complete part A and part B.

(A) Define the term "**politics**". Explain the meaning of **ten** political maxims (sayings). You should incorporate detailed examples explaining each maxim. Your examples can come from the book, historical examples, or recent current events. **If you copy/paste any information, you will earn an automatic zero.**

A. Political Maxims:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>What've ya done for me lately?</i>2. <i>All politics is local</i>3. <i>It's better to receive than to give</i>4. <i>Triangulation</i>5. <i>Dance with the one that brung ya</i>6. <i>Keep your enemies in front of you</i>7. <i>Don't Get Mad; Don't Get Even; Get Ahead</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">8. <i>Leave no shot unanswered</i>9. <i>Hang a Lantern on Your Problem</i>10. <i>Politics = Power</i>11. <i>Only talk when it improves the silence</i>12. <i>Positioning</i>13. <i>Retail politics</i> |
|--|---|

(B) Describe the context of **five** of the following quotes, giving appropriate details → including the speaker and background of each quote. **If you copy/paste any information, you will earn an automatic zero.**

1. "He's not going to win. It's a Republican district. He'd be better for us if he loses. He'll work for me. He'll bring his organization with him."
2. No, Ronald Reagan is a man of the media: the Great Wholesaler ... he was positioning himself with enormous science, establishing himself in the public mind not as an aloof head of government but as the man next door. Every action was designed to make him appear close to the people and distant from the government.
3. "I've lived across the street from you for 18 years ... I shoveled your walk in winter. I cut your grass in summer ... I didn't think I had to ask you for your vote. He never forgot her response. 'Tom, I want you to know something: people like to be asked.'"
4. "Better to have them p....n' inside the tent than outside p....n' in."
5. ... the elections of 1994 were a rough slap in the face. His party lost control of both houses of Congress for the first time since 1954 ... Rather than join his fellow Democrats in defeat, he took advisor Dick Morris's advice ... "parroting the rhetoric of the congressional Democrats would merely be sharing the storm cellar with them ... Adopting the Republican agenda begged the question. The president needed to take a position that blended the best of each party's position." (DO NOT USE POSITIONING TO EXPLAIN THIS QUOTE)

6. "... His message came across clear and appealing ... He described America as a country 'where no Catholic prelate would tell the President -- should he be a Catholic - how to act and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote. This is a country where religious liberty is so indivisible that an act against one Church is treated as an act against all."
7. "Florida Senator, Lawton Chiles, rejected the well-tailored dark blue suit so fashionable in D.C. 'When I dress like that, no one comes up to me in the airport to say hello.'"
8. "We succeed in enterprises which demand the positive qualities we possess, but we excel at those which also make use of our defects"...(relate to Ed Muskie)
9. The waiter said, "Well, maybe you don't know who I am." "Well, as a matter of fact, I don't ... who are you" "I'm the guy who's in charge of the butter."
10. "Cry Baby", screamed the headline of the *New York Daily News* above a picture of Newt in diapers. "Newt's Tantrum: He closed down the government because Clinton made him sit at the back of the plane."
11. "Don't give it all at once. Give five thousand at the start and indicate they can come back for more if they need it. Halfway through the campaign, they'll be back. This time give them another five thousand and indicate that is all you intend to contribute. About a week before the election, they'll be some desperate for money that someone will suggest that maybe you can be induced to come to the rescue..."
12. "It's been said that I'm not the most compelling speaker, and there are actually those who claim that I don't always communicate in the clearest, most concise way. Well, I may not be the most eloquent ... and I may sometimes be a little awkward ... but there is nothing self-conscious in my love of country. I am a quiet man, but I hear the quiet people others don't. The ones who raise a family, pay the taxes, met the mortgages."
13. "JFK would call 5 or 6 ... LBJ would take 19 names and call them all."

Assignment #2 (Constitution Assignment): Developing Your Constitutional Background

Directions: Read the US Constitution and complete the following questions. We will discuss this the first day of class and you will be responsible for this information on the first test.

**** A Great Resource:** www.constitutioncenter.org → Click on “Interactive Constitution”

Part One: The Overall Structure of the Constitution

1. Read each article of the Constitution. Summarize the general purpose or subject of each article in **one sentence** in the chart below.

Article I	
Article II	
Article III	
Article IV	

Article V	
Article VI	
Article VII	

2. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the House?
3. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the Senate?
4. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for the President?
5. The powers of the Constitution that are **specifically** granted to the branches of government or to officeholders are called **expressed (enumerated) powers**.
 - a. Identify two expressed powers of the president.
 - b. Identify two expressed powers of the vice president.
 - c. Identify two expressed powers of Congress.
6. According to the principle of checks and balances, each branch of the government must have control over the other branches. Look at the first three articles of the Constitution and identify one of each type of checks and balances. Indicate where each power is listed in the Constitution.
 - a. A power that the executive branch has over the legislative branch: _____
This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution: _____
 - b. A power that the executive branch holds over the judicial branch: _____
This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution: _____
 - c. A power that the legislative branch holds over the executive branch: _____
This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution: _____
 - d. A power that the legislative branch holds over the executive branch: _____
This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution: _____

~~~**Trick Question**~~~ A power that the judicial branch holds over the executive branch:  
\_\_\_\_\_. This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution:  
\_\_\_\_\_

~~~**Trick Question**~~~ A power that the judicial branch holds over the legislative branch:  
_____. This can be found in what article/section of the Constitution:

7. According to Article I of the Constitution, who has the power to declare war?
8. What power does the Constitution give the president in the area of war?

Part Two: Majority and Supermajority

The Constitution requires a simple majority for some actions and a supermajority for others. A simple majority means more than half, while supermajority requirements can involve a 2/3 majority or a 3/4 majority. Most elections in the United States require a plurality, or the most votes, but not necessarily a majority.

1.
 - a. What bodies have the power to override a presidential veto?
 - b. What margin is required to override a presidential veto?
 - c. Where in the Constitution is the veto power described?
2.
 - a. What body has the power to ratify treaties?
 - b. What margin is required to ratify treaties?
 - c. Where in the Constitution is the ratification power described?
3. *To impeach* means to “bring charges against” or “to indict”.
 - a. What body has the power to impeach the president?
 - b. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described?
4.
 - a. What body has the power to convict the president of charges brought against him in the impeachment process and thereby remove him from the presidency?
 - b. What margin is required to convict and remove a president?
 - c. Where in the Constitution is the impeachment power described?
5.
 - a. What body has the power to accept or reject a president’s nomination to the Supreme Court?
 - b. What margins is required to elevate a president’s nominee to a seat on the court?
 - c. Where in the Constitution are judicial nominations described?
6.
 - a. If no candidate for the presidency wins a simple majority of the total number of electoral votes, what body has the power to choose the president?
 - b. What margin is required to choose the president?
 - c. Where in the Constitution is the Electoral College described? (Hint: there are two parts)
7. The Constitution specifies a three-fourths majority for just one process. What?
8. See Article VI. Explain the “supremacy clause” in your own words.
9. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be proposed?
10. What are two ways that amendments to the Constitution can be ratified?

Part Three: The Amendments to the Constitution

Some parts of the Constitution require a simple majority, others a supermajority, while still others protect citizens from the will of the majority. The first ten amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights protect citizens from the will of the majority. In other words, no majority could vote to take these rights away. Read each amendment to the Constitution and answer the questions below.

1. Outline the general purpose of the first 10 Amendments.

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Amendment 1 | |
| Amendment 2 | |
| Amendment 3 | |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Amendment 4 | |
| Amendment 5 | |
| Amendment 6 | |
| Amendment 7 | |
| Amendment 8 | |
| Amendment 9 | |
| Amendment 10 | |

2. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of women?
3. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution provides for people to receive “equal protection of the law”?
 ~ Describe how this amendment had an effect on the Bill of Rights?
4. How were US Senators chosen before the Seventeenth Amendment?
5. The Twenty-Fifth Amendment describes the sequence of events that would install the vice president as acting president against the will of the president. Outline that sequence of events.
6. How many times is the word *privacy* mentioned in the Constitution (articles and amendments)?

Assignment 3 (Current Events): Getting in the Habit of Reading/Watching the News

Read and watch the news this summer and decide the top domestic policy news story and the top foreign policy news story based on national significance (the story’s affect on the United States of America). The specific directions for this assignment are listed below:

- A. You need to write **one-page** describing what you feel is the most important domestic policy news story to occur over the summer.
- B. You need to write **one-page** describing what you feel is the most important foreign policy news story to occur over the summer.
- C. Additionally, you need to write **1-2 paragraphs** describing the **specific** types of media you use most often. (eg. TV, Internet, newspapers, books, podcasts, magazines, etc—be specific in this section)

Assignment #4: “Need-to-Know” Government Jargon

Directions:

A. You will need to define each of the following items in **your own words**. These are common words used in the media and “political insiders”. Additionally, many of these words come up on the AP exam. Your knowledge of these words will help you digest and understand many of the current event articles you will come across this summer and throughout the school year.

B. Write a 1-2 paragraph essay discussing which of these words you came across **the most** while working on your summer assignment and/or following the news. This is a wide-open assignment; therefore, you can take your writing in any direction.

~*~ **Hint** to finding the definitions of these words →

1. Use www.google.com to search for these words, though if you follow these steps you will save time looking up these words.
2. When searching put in the following phrase → **define: “word”**
 - An Example: **define: “Inside the Beltway”**
 - Using the quotes tells your search engine limits your search results to site that only have the phrase you typed

1. “Inside the Beltway”
2. Alienation
3. “Above Politics”
4. pundit
5. soundbite
6. “rank and file”
7. “limousine liberal”
8. maverick
9. partisan
10. Bipartisan
11. Partisan

12. “Swing state”
13. “Dirty tricks”
14. “Stump speech”
15. Lobbyist
16. Bandwagon
17. Spin
18. “Boon doggle”
19. “Red tape”
20. Gerrymander
21. Polarization
22. Lameduck

23. “pork barrel spending”
24. “Coat tails effect”
25. Grassroots
26. “on the fence”
27. Platform
28. “The Hill”
29. “Bully pulpit”
30. “Logrolling”
31. “Bailout”