



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**AP U.S. Government & Politics**  **Summer Assignment**

Welcome to Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics! Your first assignment has two parts; exploring the United States Constitution and analyzing current events that relate to our government. **Both parts are due on the first day of school.** If you have any questions or concerns regarding the assignment, please feel free to email me at [jlouie@cheltenham.org](mailto:jlouie@cheltenham.org) any time over the summer.

**Part I: Exploring the United States Constitution**

• You will be reading The United States Constitution and its Amendments, and answering the accompanying questions on the following pages. You can access the Constitution online and/or buy a pocket copy for as little as \$4.95 on Amazon (also available from many other retailers). The Constitution Center has an excellent online source for accessing and understanding the Constitution: <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution> . They even have an app, which I have on my phone, that has all of the features of the website. If you do not require a paper copy for marking up the text, the Constitution Center’s options are the best.

You can handwrite your answers or type them.

**Part I: Exploring the United States Constitution**

*DIRECTIONS:* Read the U.S. Constitution. Complete this worksheet—you will keep it in your notebook for reference throughout the course. This review of the Constitution does not need to be in complete sentences. Some questions may require additional research from other sources. You can type or write your responses. *Note:* Although this is a lengthy assignment, feedback from those who have done a thorough job on this have said that it does in fact serve well them throughout the year and then in preparation for the AP test. **I have highlighted in yellow all tasks and questions.**

|           |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|
| Article # | <b>Big Idea- The Main Topics</b>  | <b>Details, Unfamiliar Terms and Questions</b><br><br>(Look up unfamiliar terms, then try to understand the text. Type your question into Google, and see if you find any answers from credible sources.) |
| I         | Article I establishes the Legislative Branch of government... it sets up... |   |



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|     |  |  |
|-----|--|--|
| II  |  |  |
| III |  |  |
| IV  |  |  |
| V   |  |  |
| VI  |  |  |
| VII |  |  |

*Louie Side Note:* Make sure you know the difference – there are 7 Articles of the Constitution, or parts. There are 10 Amendments in the Bill of Rights. In total there are 27 Amendments to the Constitution. Commit this to memory so you don't get confused.

**Question #1:**

Which is the longest and most detailed article? Why do you think that is?

**The Three Branches-Powers**

Enumerated powers are those listed specifically in the Constitution. Look through the first three Articles for examples. Pay careful attention to checks and balances—how each branch of government controls the others. Remember to answer in your own words, and to look up what you don't understand.

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

Checks & Balances: What are TWO enumerated powers it has over the President?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks and Balances: What is ONE enumerated power it has over the courts?

What other enumerated powers does Congress have?

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

Checks & Balances: What is ONE enumerated power it has over the courts?

Checks & Balances: What is ONE enumerated power it has over Congress?

What other enumerated powers does the President have?

**JUDICIAL BRANCH**

Checks & Balances: What's ONE enumerated power it has over the President?

Checks & Balances: What is ONE enumerated power it has over Congress?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What other enumerated powers do the courts have?

**Question #2**

Identify and explain two powers that the Constitution specifically DENIES to Congress.

**The Amendment Process**

In your own words, describe TWO ways to propose an amendment, and TWO ways to ratify an amendment.

| Ways to propose an amendment | Ways to ratify an amendment |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                              |                             |
|                              |                             |

**Question #3**

Can you find which process of proposal and ratification has been used most often?

Which has never been used? Why do you think it has never been used?

**Requirements for National Office**

What requirements can you find to hold political office in the United States? Fill in the table below with your findings from the Constitution and the amendments.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

|  | House of Representatives | Senate | President | Supreme Court Justice |
|--|--------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Age Requirement                                      |                          |        |           |                       |
| Citizenship Requirement                              |                          |        |           |                       |
| Length of Term                                       |                          |        |           |                       |
| Gaining Office- How does it happen? Who is involved? |                          |        |           |                       |

**Question #4**

Why would the requirements vary for different offices? Come up with some theories on why the founders would make different rules for different branches.

**Question #5**

Where and what is the Elastic Clause in the U.S. Constitution?

**Identify the main point of each Constitutional amendment.**

| Amendment   | What did this amendment accomplish? |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 (5 parts)<br>Freedom of religion,<br>Freedom of speech... |                                     |
| 2   |                                     |
| 3   |                                     |



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 4           |  |
| 5 (5 parts) |  |
| 6 (5 parts) |  |
| 7           |  |
| 8 (2 parts) |  |
| 9           |  |
| 10          |  |
| 11          |  |
| 12          |  |
| 13          |  |
| 14          |  |



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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|----|--|
| 26 |  |
| 27 |  |

## Part II: Current Events

- You will find any three news articles that are related to government and politics. You can use print newspapers or news magazines, or online news sites. If you have any questions regarding the reliability of a source, please email Mrs. Louie.
- Each article must be at least 3 paragraphs in length.
- Attach, print and/or provide a link for each article.
- Your writing assignment based on the article will be three paragraphs in length. (You will write three paragraphs for each of the three articles, resulting in a total of 9 paragraphs of writing.)
  - ★ Summarize the article in your own words in a minimum of one 6-8 sentence paragraph.
  - ★ Explain how the event or topic connects to government and politics in a minimum of one 6-8 sentence paragraph.
  - ★ Give your opinion / personal analysis of the article in a minimum of one 6-8 sentence paragraph.

*Note:* Finding articles will not be hard this summer. The protests going on, the response to the Covid-19 epidemic, and the upcoming election will provide many articles daily. Many of these articles will highlight a connection between the event or topic and its relationship to government, politics, or elected officials.