



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 three branches of 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.

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**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). A great, free online source for accessing the Constitution: <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution>

You can **handwrite your answers or type them.**

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**Part II: Current Events**

- Find a news article for each of the three branches of government. 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.

\* *Note:* Mrs. Louie knows that your understanding of each branch of government will not yet be fully developed; make sure to complete Part I first, and do the best you can! ☺

- ★ Current Event #1: The Legislative Branch

- ★ Current Event #2: The Executive Branch

- ★ Current Event #3: The Judicial Branch

- 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 a minimum of one 6-8 sentence paragraph.
  - ★ Explain how the event or topic exemplifies the duties or powers of the branch 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.



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### Part I: Exploring the United States Constitution

*DIRECTIONS:* Read the U.S. Constitution. Complete this worksheet using any online or print resource you require—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. You can type or write your responses.

Article #	Big Idea- The Main Topics	Details, Unfamiliar Terms and Questions
I		
II		
III		
IV		
V		
VI		
VII		



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

#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?

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?



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What other enumerated powers does the President have?

**JUDICIAL BRANCH**

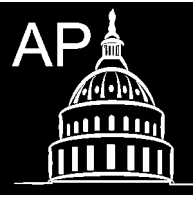
Checks & Balances: What's ONE enumerated power it has over the President?

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

What other enumerated powers do the courts have?

**#2**

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



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### 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

### #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.

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



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**#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.

**#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)	
2	
3	
4	
5 (5 parts)	



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6 (5 parts)	
7	
8 (2 parts)	
9	
10	
11	
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