

## AP U.S. Government and Politics - SUMMER NEWS JOURNAL

**DUE:** Thursday, August 29th in the Google Classroom

As engaged citizens of the United States our goals are two-fold:

1. To be informed about *what* is happening with our government and political culture, and
1. To be media savvy and know *where* to find reputable news reporting.

### **First Assignment - AP U.S. Government and Politics: Follow political news over the summer!**

Besides election news (MA Gubernatorial Race and Congress Midterm Elections), you will report on current political events and issues, as well as U.S. Supreme Court decisions, as the Supreme Court ends its annual term and announces many decisions in June.

Your assignment is to locate, summarize, and analyze **EIGHT (8) current NATIONAL news stories** reported or published on any date **between June 29th and August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. News stories can be found via online or print newspapers or television or online video news reports. Use the News Journal pages (in the Google classroom) to cite your sources and dates and report on **one story for EACH of the following topics**:

1. (2) **POLITICAL** issues (examples of story topics: the Presidential or Congressional elections/primaries and campaigns, individual candidates, political parties, workings of Congress, etc.)
2. **ECONOMIC** issues (ex: Wall Street, jobs, unemployment, business, taxes, recession, oil prices, economic classes (working-class or middle-class issues), etc.)
3. **SOCIAL** or **DOMESTIC** issues (ex: civil rights, race relations, gender equality, LGBT issues, immigration, abortion, free speech, crime, etc.)
4. **FOREIGN POLICY** (ex: military operations, diplomacy, War on Terror, North Korea, Middle East, Latin America, basically U.S. involvement or interest or policy involving any other country)
5. **U.S. SUPREME COURT** (news report on any 2019 decision - make sure you are familiar with the decision)
6. (2) **STATE** or **LOCAL**: One article on any topic of your choice, focused on either the state or local level (ex: statewide or local environmental issue, state economy, local schools, state- or local-level elections or ballot measures, etc.)

(Note: Issues #1-5 above should focus on NATIONAL issues and policy.)

### **Where to find reputable sources for news articles and video segments??**

- National news outlets such as CNN, NPR, PBS, or network news (ABC/NBC/CBS).
- Nationally-read newspapers such as *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and large city/state papers such as *Los Angeles Times* or *San Francisco Chronicle*.
- Magazines (both print and online) sometimes provide more in-depth investigative reporting on an issue, though some can have a clear political bias or slant (*The Atlantic*, *New Yorker*, *TIME*, *Newsweek*, *The Economist*, *Mother Jones*).

[Complete the Summer News Journal worksheets found in the Google classroom by **Thursday, August 29th**. If you have any copies of print magazine or newspaper articles you'd like to submit, you can bring those to me on the first day of class.]

Name:

Date:

## AP Government: Political Ideology Self-Interview

**Directions:** One of the major goals of the course will be for you to gain a greater understanding of your own political beliefs and how these have been formed. We will be studying the process of political socialization and the formation of political ideologies during the first term. For this assignment, you will conduct a self-interview, answer the questions below.

Each answer should be typed, 12-pt font, and at least a paragraph (4-6 sentences) or longer. *After you have finished answering the questions, please type a 500 word reflection that explains: how taking AP Government will shape or change your understanding and beliefs regarding government and the political events of the past year and in the future.*

**DUE: July 29, 2019 → Google Classroom**

### Self-Interview Questions:

1. How would you describe your view of politics and American government in general?
2. Who do you feel has had a particular influence on your view of politics during your life AND how would you describe his/her influence on you?
3. What major changes or events have influenced the way you feel about government AND why (or how) did they have this impact?
4. Are you 18?
  - If not, do you plan on voting when you turn 18?
    - Do you know how to register to vote?
    - What reasons do you have as to why you would vote in the upcoming election Boston Municipal elections?
  - If so, have you voted since turning 18?
    - If so, how often? What leads you to voting on election day?
    - If not, what are the reasons why and how you feel about it?
5. What political or social issues do you feel most strongly about today AND why do you feel strongly about these issues?
6. How have the political or social issues that you feel most strongly about changed over the years, including issues that you either no longer feel as strongly about or that did not used to be a major area of concern in the past but are today?
7. In what ways and to what degree, do you believe that your views on politics and different political/social issues have impacted the views or attitudes of your friends and family?

Name:

Date:

## AP U.S. Government and Politics Summer News Journal

Directions: You are to fill out each journal entry completely

POLITICAL News Story Title:	News Source:	Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
News Story Summary (50-100 words):	Date of News Item:  Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):	

<b>POLITICAL News Story Title:</b>	<b>News Source:</b>	<b>Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):</b>
<b>News Story Summary (50-100 words):</b>	<b>Date of News Item:</b>  <b>Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):</b>	

<b>ECONOMIC News Story Title:</b>	<b>News Source:</b>	<b>Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):</b>
<b>News Story Summary (50-100 words):</b>	<b>Date of News Item:</b>	
<b>Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):</b>		

<b>SOCIAL/DOMESTIC News Story Title:</b>	<b>News Source:</b>	<b>Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):</b>
<b>News Story Summary (50-100 words):</b>	<b>Date of News Item:</b>	
<b>Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):</b>		

<b>FOREIGN POLICY News Story Title:</b>	<b>News Source:</b>	<b>Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):</b>
<b>News Story Summary (50-100 words):</b>	<b>Date of News Item:</b>	
	<b>Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):</b>	

<p><b>U.S. SUPREME COURT</b> News Story Title:</p>	<p>News Source:</p>	<p>Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):</p>
<p>News Story Summary (50-100 words):</p>	<p>Date of News Item:</p>	
<p>Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):</p>		



<b>STATE/LOCAL News Story Title:</b>	<b>News Source:</b>	<b>Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):</b>
<b>News Story Summary (50-100 words):</b>	<b>Date of News Item:</b>  <b>Link to News Item (or make a copy of print article):</b>	

STATE/LOCAL News Story Title:	News Source:	Your Analysis or Opinion (250 words):
News Story Summary (50-100 words):	Date of News Item:	
Link to News Item (or make copy of print article):		