

AP Government and Politics Summer Assignment

Daily News Habit

We are living in unprecedented times that future generations will study. Paying attention to what is happening in the world around you is essential to your understanding of AP Government and Politics and to being an educated citizen. It will allow you to relate the concepts we study to real life issues, especially those of the Coronavirus Pandemic, and will make the entire course more meaningful. I would like for you to spend just a few minutes everyday paying attention to the headlines so that you develop a daily news habit. There are 2 options:

- Subscribe to the Daily Skimm - <https://www.theskimm.com>; The skimm is a free digest of daily news stories intended to be simple and easy to read. It's also clever and witty. My daughters prefer this newsletter.
- Subscribe to the New York Times morning briefing - <https://www.nytimes.com/newsletters/morning-briefing>; I read this every morning, and there are good synopses of all the important headlines.
- I am not going to grade you on this, but you will be able to contribute a lot more in class and sound a lot smarter if you are up on the issues.

Politics Monday with Amy Walter and Tamara Keith on PBS Newshour

The American news media are biased even though they strive to remain objective and to report both sides on most issues. "Fake news" was the word of the year in 2017, but the term has been overused. We are going to think critically about what we hear, evaluate our sources, and be aware of bias; we are not going to assume that most of our news is fake.

I have chosen *PBS NewsHour* as the source for your news for this assignment. *Business Insider* rates PBS and the Associated Press as the least biased news outlets, and AllSides Media Bias Rating gives *PBS Newshour* a "Center" grade. *PBS Newshour* comes on at 6pm and 9pm on weeknights and full episodes are available online at the following link: <https://www.pbs.org/show/newshour>.

Your assignment is to watch the segment called Politics Monday. It lasts between 7-9 minutes and you don't have to watch it on Monday.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=politics+monday+pbs+newshour

You can also find it on Youtube by searching Politics Monday PBS Newshour.

The assignment is as follows:

- Watch at least 6 Politics Monday segments over the course of the summer. Please don't wait until the end of July, but if you do, be sure to watch the segments in chronological order.
- Write a summary of the issues that are discussed in each of the six segments and include the date of the episode. What branch of government is involved and tell who is doing what? House of Representatives? Senate? President/White House? Include the significance of the issues being discussed - tell why they are important and relevant. Give your personal opinion of what the journalists are talking about. If you don't have a clue, then please do some research to figure it out.
- This is worth 5 pts. per summary for a total of 30 points in the homework grade category. You must write at least 5 complete sentences to get credit.

Government 101 - AP Government Essential Knowledge Worksheet

Join my google classroom with code 72jr6xk

You will find a worksheet with some core concepts and general knowledge questions about the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. These are just facts that you will want to know before the course starts. You will not be graded on the worksheet, but there will be a 20 question quiz on it the first week of school.