



## AP Government Summer Assignment 2021-2022 School Year

**Directions:** Complete the attached assignment.

Students should working **ON THEIR OWN** to complete this assignment. Any collaboration with another student, copying etc. will result in a “0” on the assignment and a report in your official student files. To be submitted on the first day of classes.

### Part I: Exploring the United States Constitution

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the United States Constitution and its amendments, answer the questions on the following pages. The U.S. Constitution can be accessed online at:  
<https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution>.

This assignment will keep in your class materials for the entirety of the school year ahead for reference. Some questions may require additional research from other sources. You can type or write your responses.

**Note:** Although this is a lengthy assignment, it will support you throughout the year and in preparation for the AP test. **All tasks and questions have been highlighted in yellow.**

Article #	Big Idea- The Main Topics	Details, Unfamiliar Terms and Questions  (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...	
II		
III		
IV		

V		
VI		
VII		

**\*\*\* FYI: 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 do not 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 that are 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 do not 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?

What other enumerated powers does the President have?

## JUDICIAL BRANCH

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

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

**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?				
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**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)  Freedom of religion, Freedom of speech...	
2	
3	
4	
5 (5 parts)	

6 (5 parts)	
7	
8 (2 parts)	
9	
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## Part II: Current Events

- You will find any three OBJECTIVE news articles that are related to government and politics (the best, objective, nonpartisan news sites are The AP, Reuters, The Conversation).
- Each article must be at least three 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.