

Welcome to Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics!

Your summer assignment has two parts; exploring the United States Constitution and analyzing current events that relate to our government. You will type your answers into this Word doc. **Both parts are due on the first day of school.**

If you have any questions, email Mrs. Stephenson at kristen.stephenson@madison-schools.com

Part I: Exploring the United States Constitution

ÿ 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 [here](#) or [here](#).

DIRECTIONS: Read the U.S. Constitution. Complete this worksheet. This review of the Constitution does not need to be in complete sentences. Some questions may require additional research from other sources. **I have highlighted in yellow all tasks and questions. You MUST write your answers in your own words. DO NOT COPY AND PASTE!!**

Article #	Big Idea – Key Points	Details, unfamiliar terms, questions (Look up any unfamiliar terms or details.)
I	Example: Article I establishes the legislative branch... it sets up....	
II		
III		

IV		
V		
VI		
VII		

Side Note: Make sure you know the difference – there are 7 Articles that establish the original US Constitution. The first 10 Amendments are known as the Bill of Rights. In total there are 27 Amendments to the Constitution. Commit this to memory so you don't get confused.

Checks and Balances

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

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?
What other enumerated powers do the courts have?

Limited Government

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

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 Rep.	Senate	President	Supreme Court Justice
Age Requirement				
Citizenship Requirement?				
Length of Term				
Gaining office – How does one get the job?				

Where and What is the Elastic Clause? (You will probably need to look this up!)

Identify the main point of each Constitutional amendment

Amendment	What did this amendment accomplish?
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Part II: Current Events

ÿ You will find any **FIVE** news articles that are related to government and politics. They can focus on presidential action, Congressional lawmaking, Supreme Court decisions, election news, etc. You can use print media or online news sites, but they **MUST** come from a reputable media outlet. You can use the [Ad Fontes Media Bias chart](#) to help you determine how reliable a source is. If you have any questions regarding the reliability of a source, please email Mrs. Stephenson.

- Each article must be at least 3 paragraphs in length.
- Provide a link for each article.
- Summarize the article in your own words in a minimum of one 4-6 sentence paragraph.
- Explain how the event or topic connects to government and politics in a minimum of one 4-6 sentence paragraph.
- Give your opinion / personal analysis of the article in a minimum of one 4-6 sentence paragraph.

Include your Current Events below in this same document.