

AP Government Summer Assignment

Assignment #1: A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution by Carol Berkin Due Date: 2nd Day of class

The complex and interesting story of the creation of the U.S. Constitution will come alive on these pages. Along with great historical perspective, the book gives you your very own copy of the original Articles of Confederation, the U.S. Constitution and descriptions of each of the delegates to the convention. To help you prepare to tackle A.P. Government, you are assigned to complete the following:

- Purchase or borrow the book from a former student or the library, and read it.
- Prepare to take a book exam during the first few days of class that assesses your knowledge and understanding of the book. You may use your own notes during the exam that you will turn in along with your test. Notes should NOT be copied from another student in the class or from a previous year. To effectively prepare for the book exam, focus your notes on the following topics:
 - The historical events and issues that challenged the U.S. that led to a call for the convention in Philadelphia;
 - The most significant leaders and contributors who played an important role at the convention;
 - The most significant issues that caused the most debate and discussion at the convention; describe the multiple perspectives and the political dynamics behind those disagreements;
 - The most significant compromises and decisions made by our Founders that were included in the U.S. Constitution;
 - The viewpoint of those Founders who supported the Constitution at the end of the convention and the viewpoint of those who had concerns and did not want their states to ratify the new government.

Assignment #2: Hardball by Chris Matthews and Current Events

Due Date: 1st Day of class

As an introduction to the world of politics, you will read the work of Chris Matthews, who has much experience working for D.C. politicians, and commenting on government on his show on MSNBC. He worked mostly for Democrats, but voted for President George W. Bush. He has been supported and criticized from both the “left” and “right” sides of the political spectrum. Hardball is required reading in some college courses not only because of its in-depth analysis of the rules of politics, but also because of the interest and excitement the book creates among those who read it. What better way to understand the rules of “hardball” than by applying them to recent political events and issues?

As you are reading **the first 4 chapters of Hardball**, begin to pay attention to the news and political events at the state and national level. It is important that you enter the class in August with a good understanding of what is currently happening in our nation and world. You should spend a bit of time many days this summer watching, listening to or reading the news. Here are some good sources:

- *The Columbus Dispatch* - your best source for news on local and state issues (on-line, library)
- Newspapers and news websites: *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *CNN*, *Fox News*, *BBC* (on-line, library)
- Clearinghouse websites (lots of editorials, comments from many sources) - www.realclearpolitics.com is a good one
- News analysis shows on cable news channels including CNN, FoxNews, MSNBC, Sunday morning news shows on the regular networks (ABC, NBC, CBS), NPR news reports and interviews.
- Consider subscribing to a news service on your smart phone or other device, if that’s how you prefer to read your news.
- Be careful and cautious of the sources of your news. If you get a lot of your news through social media, take a look at where the links come from. Be aware of the political bias of your sources, and choose to consume sources that have a strong reputation for reporting “real” news. We’ll learn about this more next year, but for now, be mindful of consuming news from credible sources.

Think about the connections you can make between the rules of “hardball” and our current politicians who operate in our political system.

- Purchase or borrow Hardball and read the first 4 chapters of the book in the section entitled “Alliances.” We will read the rest of the book throughout the 1st semester. If you know you will have a busy schedule during the fall, you might choose to finish the book over the summer, but only the first 4 chapter are due at the beginning of school.
- Take notes to prepare for a class discussion that addresses the following questions:
 - What are the “rules” of politics that Matthews describes?
 - How does one gain and maintain power?
 - In current politics, who is applying the rules of Hardball well? And, who seems to be ignoring the rules of Hardball?
 - Where did you get your news? For each current event, cite your source (news source, date accessed, title and author of the news piece).
- You will turn these notes in as a documentation of your work, but you will also earn points for participation in a class discussion.

Questions? Just because it’s summer, don’t hesitate to contact us.

It might take us a little longer than normal to respond, but we will get back to you at some point.

Enjoy your summer, but don’t put off all of your A.P. Gov work until mid-August! ☺

Contact Mrs. Glaros at lglaros@wscloud.org or Mr. Patch at jpatch@wscloud.org

Grading Rubric for Hardball-Current Events Discussion	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Missing
Hardball and Current Events of 2019 notes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes from Matthew's <i>Hardball</i> that clearly address three questions... 1) What are the "rules" of politics? 2) How does one gain and maintain power? 3) In current politics, who is applying Hardball rules well and who is ignoring these rules? Organized notes, and all three questions must be clearly addressed. Cite the sources of your current events connections - and be sure to use credible media outlets only. (10 points)	Thorough notes that address all 3 questions. Thorough citations.	Adequate notes that address all 3 questions. Brief citations.	Low quantity and/or quality of notes that address some of the questions. Brief citations.	No notes. No citations.
Current events discussion in class				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During class discussion, speak at least 3 times and your comment does one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers <u>specific information</u>, details, data and/or examples to the discussion; Offers <u>your opinion</u> with a thorough explanation. When observing, listen quietly and carefully, and evaluate your peers productively. (10 points)	Strong quantity and quality of comments. Helpful evaluation of other students.	Adequate quantity and quality of comments. Adequate evaluation of other students.	Low quantity and quality of comments. Minimal evaluation of other students.	No participation. No evaluation of other students.
Total Points: _____ 20 points				