AP United States Government and Politics
Mr. Wise
2020-2021

Prior-to-Course Summer Assignment:

The following assignment is required for students who will be taking this course. Unlike most of the courses offered here at Wilson Memorial High School, you will have an assignment due over the course of the summer.   If you score below 60%, you are strongly encouraged to enroll in a regular section of the course.

Summer Assignment: *2004, 2008, 2012, & 2016 Presidential Elections Project*

Using the sources listed below, and others as necessary, **y**ou will need to complete a paper to explain what the election data means. Be sure to compare and contrast the battleground/swing states in the four elections. The paper will need to be 4-6 pages long (Times New Roman, double spaced, 12 pt. font with 1-inch margins and a proper heading). Six pages is the *maximum* length. It will need to explain how the elections, the polling process, a divided electorate and battleground (swing) states have impacted the way campaigns spend money, travel and target their message. I will expect to see some analysis of important issues from these elections, how technology is playing a role in the process and a consideration of how the notion of battleground states has changed for each of these four elections. The paper must be properly cited or notated (including the sources I have provided); my website includes a link to a very basic MLA primer should you require one.

This project is due Monday July 13, 2020. Please turn in your work by the due date. Work needs to be turned in via Google Classroom. If you are going to be out of town, please make the necessary arrangements to turn this in while you are away or before you leave. Late assignments will not be accepted.

General Electoral Votes Map and Chart:
https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-States-Electoral-College-Votes-by-State-1787124

2004 Electoral Votes Map and Additional Information:
https://www.270towin.com/2004_Election/

2004 Swing States:
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Swing_states,_2004.svg

2008 Electoral Votes Map and Additional Information:
https://www.270towin.com/2008_Election/

2008 Swing States:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Swing_states,_2008.svg

2012 Electoral Votes and Additional Information:
https://www.270towin.com/2012_Election/

2012 Swing States:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008_United_States_presidential_election#/media/File:Swing_states,_2008.svg

2016 Electoral Votes and Additional Information:
https://www.270towin.com/2016_Election/

2016 Swing States:
http://frankwbaker.com/mlc/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/swing-states.jpg

When we resume school on August 4th, be ready to take the feedback from this first assignment and apply that to these additional assignments which will be due during the first few weeks of school. I am including information on these assignments. For those wanting to get a jump on these assignments, here is a project outline:

Upcoming Projects/Assignments (will be due during the first few weeks of the 2020-2021 school year)

Upcoming Project One: *Project Proposal for the Civic Action Project (Applied Civics Project)*

The College Board requires all students enrolled in AP Government to complete a Civic Action project. The project itself will be due and presented to the class sometime toward the end of the first semester; however, you need to start thinking about and working on this now. As part of this project, you will need to write a project proposal. See the pages at the end of this document for more information.

Upcoming Project Two: *Judicial Review Paper*
You will need to demonstrate that you fully understand the concept of judicial review. You will research the topic and produce a 6-8 page paper. Your paper will need to fully address the concept of judicial review as used by the Supreme Court. Be certain to include the meaning of precedent and how it is used in today's court system. Also discuss in your paper any important 1st and 14th Amendment guarantees, as well as the specifics of the following cases: *Marbury v. Madison, McCulloch v. Maryland, Dred Scott v. Sanford, Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board of Education* and *Roe v. Wade*. You are strongly encouraged to include other cases as needed, and doing so may improve your analysis.

Upcoming Project three: *Daily News Journal*
You will need to keep a news journal. Use Google Docs or Microsoft Word. You are required to have 25 total entries/pages. The entries must be related to government or politics. Your source for the news entries must also be included. These entries need to reflect what is happening in the world of government and politics. Please include a summary and an analysis of each item; make sure you have each entry distinctly represented in your work (i.e., a separate summary & analysis).

Your source can be a news program, an online site or a newspaper as long as the news is factual. Pay careful attention to your sources as many websites and television shows now claim to present news even though they do not actually do so. Carefully examine your entries and note any bias that you perceive.

AP Government & Politics Civic Action Project (Upcoming Project One)

PURPOSE

The College Board requires students in the AP US Government & Politics course to engage in a Government based applied Civic Action Project. While the project is not part of the AP Exam grade, it does provide students the opportunity to engage in a sustained, real-world activity that will deepen their understanding of course content.

TIMEFRAME

In many cases, the most challenging part of the project will be deciding what you would like to do. Begin thinking of this now.

The exact due date for the full completed assignment (not the proposal) has yet to be determined however it will likely be in December/January.

PROJECT GUIDELINES

A relevant project will apply course concepts to real-world political issues, processes, institutions, and policymaking. For example, students might investigate a question by collecting and analyzing data; participate in a relevant service learning or civic event; or develop a sustained, applied investigation about local issues. Students would then communicate their findings or experiences in a way that conveys or demonstrates their understanding of course content.

This project needs to be completed individually. This is not a group project.

This project **may** be partisan-based (favoring one political party over another) if the student so chooses. For example, a student may choose to attend meetings of or participate in the activities of a particular political party.

Project requirements
- The project must connect course concepts to real-world issues.
- The student must demonstrate acceptable political science disciplinary practices.
- The student must share/communicate their findings in an authentic way (e.g., presentation, article, speech, brochure, multimedia, podcast, display.)
- The project may be service-oriented, but must be connected to the course curriculum.

Project proposal assignment

Sometimes the most difficult part of doing a project is deciding what to do, but that is obviously where you will need to begin. During the summer you will have time to think about possible topics and explore various possibilities. By sometime early in the school year, you will need to have decided what you will do for your project.

1. **Project topic (paragraph):** What topic will you be exploring in your project? Identify how it relates to the course curriculum.
2. **Project goals (paragraph):** Describe what you want to learn and/or achieve in your exploration of this topic. Remember that the study of government and politics is a social *science* so this component should be similar to the "purpose" or "objectives" part of a *science* lab report.
3. **Resources (list)**: Identify the resources you plan to use for your project. The list could include specific scholarly resources, mass media sources, government agencies/offices, professionals, businesses, people, etc.
4. **Action plan (step-by-step description in numbered list):** Break down your project into manageable steps and thoroughly describe each step in at least 3 sentences. When drafting this list you should always keep your overall goal in mind, since this task-list is a roadmap toward your overall goal. There is no set number of steps since each project will be different, but four is a reasonable **minimum.**
5. **Presentation of project (at least 1 paragraph):** Describe how your project findings will be presented. This could include following: slide show, display board or similar visual display, infographic, portfolio of artifacts, guidebook, video or photo collection, internet blog or website, formal research paper. All projects must be presented to the class in some form.
6. **Evaluation rubric (description or list in complete sentences):** Your grade will be largely determined by how completely you explored the topic, the rigor of your scholarship and/or activity, and the presentation of your findings. In this step you will help me (Mr. Wise) determine your success. How can the teacher measure your success in meeting the goal in Step 2? Develop your own rubric for success using **at least five criteria**.

PROJECT SUGGESTIONS
Below and on the following pages are some suggestions from the College Board course description. These are only some of the possibilities for a project. You should also thoroughly preview the topics in the course syllabus to explore research project possibilities. Hopefully something in these resources will provide an inspiration for you.

One on-line resource that might be helpful is the "Civic Action Project" page at the website of the Constitutional Rights Foundation. This will not provide ideas for research projects, but might help you with action-type projects.

Project Description	Presentation	Resources

Develop a Position Research a local, state, or national issue related to a political principle. Propose potential options or alternatives. Develop an argument that describes the intended outcome of the option, explains how it would be implemented, and refutes opposing arguments.	Develop a display board to present the issue, options, and proposals that will be shared in a class, school, or community political science fair. OR Write a letter or letters to elected officials explaining your position and proposal.	Sample letter to an elected official from the **American Library Association** website Sample letter and other resources from **nlacrc.org** "Writing Effective Letters to Your Legislators" on **ncra.org** Videos with tips for civic engagement on **citizenuniversity.us**
Analyze Public Opinion Develop and implement a survey about a political topic or policy. Analyze the data OR draft an analysis of existing public opinion data using a polling information compiled by Pew research or another polling organization. Make a policy recommendation and discuss the possible impact of the policy if implemented.	Develop a visual display of the data and present findings and recommendations to an appropriate group/organization/ institution (e.g., school board), as a podcast, video, letter, or other authentic format.	Survey creation tools on **Google Forms** or **typeform.com** Polling analysis and data from the **Pew Research Center** Maps, population statistics, and other data from the **U.S. Census Bureau**
Media Literacy Project Select a political issue and research how that issue is being framed and reported on in multiple media outlets. Use this investigation to develop a framework for discerning false, misleading, or biased information, including determining	Create a "guide to media literacy" for peers, using your findings on how one story is covered over various outlets to make recommendations about savvy media use.	"Web Literacy Resources" on **novemberlearning.com** Media literacy resources from the **Newseum**, **Media Literacy Now**, or the **PBS Newshour** websites "Tips on Writing a Good Letter to the Editor" from **ncte.org**

criteria for what makes a source creditable.		
Local Civic Engagement Identify and research an issue of current debate. Attend a school board, city council, or local government meeting related to that issue. Observe and document policy making processes and outcomes. OR Set up a class or school forum where policy makers or advocates of differing perspectives have opportunity to discuss and debate the issue. Document the differing perspectives and implications.	Present your own perspective during a public comment period during a public meeting. Write a letter to the editor for the school or local paper, blog, or on-line forum relating your argument or perspective.	"Tips for Speaking at a Town or Public Meeting" on the American Public Health Association website
Legislator Lobby Day After thoroughly researching a policy issue, meet with local legislators to discuss the issue.	Develop a list of evidence-based talking points and leave behind a document for use when meeting with elected officials. OR Develop a brochure for community members that explains the issue.	How to organize a lobby day on the Classroom to Capitol website
Campaign Consultants During an election season, research important issues, voter perspectives, and policies impacting a particular elected position.	Create a mock campaign proposal and then be interviewed by the teacher or classmates. The campaign proposal should	Tips for creating online campaigns on Facebook and crowdpac.com

Assume the role of campaign consultant(s) who must advise candidates currently running for office.	illustrate the candidate's strategy based on data and might include key messaging, storyboards, scripts, visual imagery, videos, and/or posters for the candidate.	"7 Ways to Effectively Market Your Candidate" on Campaigns and Elections
Citizen Action Campaign Design a citizen action campaign to increase awareness about a policy issue or to increase civic participation. Investigate the issue and an advocacy group that engages with that issue or action.	Develop a policy memo detailing the issue, the position of the campaign, and strategies for enacting the policy. Include which governmental institutions or bodies would be most likely to create policy change. OR Create a blog or public service announcement (e.g., Youtube video, radio commercial, video PSA) to inform or persuade others.	**"Policy Memo Writing Tips"** from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs How to design an infographic from **piktochart.com** **"How to Create the Perfect Public Service Announcement"** from the Center for Digital Education Strategies for civic engagement such as **"The Future of Civic Engagement"** on the National League of Cities website or from **rockthevote.org**
Service Learning Design and participate in a community service project that relates to and builds deeper understanding of a course concept.	Write and a publish an article (e.g., newspaper, blog, magazine, school website) that describes the service project and its relevance to a course concept.	**"Incorporating Service Learning into AP Courses"** on Advances in AP "Introducing AP With WE Service" on **we.org** **"Service-learning toolkit"** from the Office of Community Engagement and Partnerships at the University of South
Government in My Community Collect and annotate articles from local	Compile a portfolio of the articles with analyses of the implications and	"Electronic Portfolios in the K-12 Classroom" from educationworld.com

sources (e.g., newspapers, magazines, websites) about government actions in the community.	impact of the governmental actions and outcomes.	