

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics

Note to students: These assignments are suggested by the CCPS Secondary Social Studies Department in an effort to get you better prepared for studies in Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics. The assignments are ***NOT mandatory***; they will only be counted as extra credit for students who choose to complete them.

Suggested Assignments: AP Government and U.S. Politics

1. View nightly broadcasts of national news (NBC, ABC, or CBS). Think about the role the media plays as the gatekeeper of knowledge in our society. Is there a bias in reporting? In what ways does the media influence public opinion?
2. Keep a current event notebook. Clip news articles; then, read and write a half page of facts and a half page reaction to the news event. One article per week is suggested. Find articles that report on Congressional Actions, Presidential Actions and Judiciary Actions.
3. Read chapters 1& 2 of Wilson and Dilulio's American Government. Acquaint yourself with the format and vocabulary of the first two chapters.
4. Watch Sunday morning news program. (Meet the Press, Face the Nation, etc.) What issues are dominating the news? What resolutions are proposed?
5. View Political Debates. Make note of the major issues discussed during the debates. (View at least one Democratic and at least one Republican Debate)

Suggested books:

Eyewitness to Power by David Gergen

Hardball by Chris Matthews

Gideon's Trumpet by Anthony Lewis