



THE STEWARD SCHOOL

AP United States Government and Politics

Summer Work 2025

- **due dates:** Start of class on Monday, 8/25 (the first day of school)
- **estimated time:** 2 hours

Hello AP Gov Students,

I am extremely happy that you have decided to take AP US Government and Politics (AP Gov)! AP Gov is a terrific foundation for better understanding our federal government, its structure, and the relationships that exist, as well as what influences our political ideologies, beliefs, and willingness to participate in the political process. The College Board develops the curriculum, and we use a combination of two required texts, current events, and a plethora of supplemental resources to understand course content and develop our AP Gov skills. Our goal is to not only be prepared for the May exam, but to be more informed citizens, to develop more of an appreciation for our government, to better understand the variables that influence our political opinions and choices, and to hopefully be more active in government and politics throughout our entire lives.

In order to get through the required units at a comfortable pace once the school year officially begins, it is your responsibility to begin your AP Gov journey over the summer before we formally join one another on campus. Some of what you read and learn will be review from past courses and learning, and some will be new, but ultimately, it will be manageable and a good entry into the course.

Please find information related to the required textbooks and summer assignments below. First, you should join the Google Classroom using the invitation I will send to your Steward email address. Assignment details will be posted there (as well as below), along with additional AP Gov resources. You can reach me at James.Haske@stewardschool.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks for your time, have a terrific summer holiday; I will see you in August!

Sincerely,

Mr. Haske

Required Books

1. Required Textbooks:

You can purchase print copies from BFW Publishing [here](#). The package for the 2 books below is \$199.99. It is recommended that AP Gov students purchase print versus digital copies for ease of referencing information and making annotations. **PLEASE NOTE THAT BFW PUBLISHING DOES NOT SHOW AN OPTION FOR BUYING THE SECOND OF THE TWO TEXTBOOKS (*Document Reader for American Government: Stories of a Nation: For the AP® Course (Print Edition)*) SEPARATELY, ON THEIR WEBSITE. YOU CAN, HOWEVER, FIND IT BEING SOLD THROUGH OTHER ONLINE PROVIDERS. YOU CAN ALSO PURCHASE A USED COPY OF EITHER BOOK FROM A GRADUATING SENIOR WHO HAS TAKEN THE COURSE. WE ARE NOW USING THE MOST UPDATED VERSION OF THE TEXTBOOK (*Presidential Election Update...*). THE OLDER VERSION FROM A GRADUATING STEWARD SCHOOL STUDENT CAN STILL WORK, DESPITE SOME VERY MINOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO VERSIONS. IN THE END, THAT SHOULD NOT IMPACT STUDENT LEARNING. A USED COPY OF THE *Document Reader* IS NOT AN ISSUE SINCE THAT VERSION HAS NOT CHANGED.**

Presidential Election Update American Government: Stories of a Nation: For the AP Course First Edition (Print Edition)

Authors: Scott Abernathy and Karen Waples

Edition: 2021

ISBN 13: 978-1319344986

ISBN 10: 1319344984

Publisher: Bedford/St. Martin's

Document Reader for American Government: Stories of a Nation: For the AP® Course (Print Edition)

Authors: Scott Abernathy and Karen Waples

Edition: 2019

ISBN 13: 978-1319236588

ISBN 10: 1319236588

Publisher: Bedford/St. Martin's

Please be sure to get both of the above textbooks. They each have their own specific content and are essential for understanding the required course content.

Summer Assignments

Your summer work is broken into separate assignments that will help jump-start your transition into AP Gov. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete these assignments. However, you should complete them in August so the content is fresh at the start of the school year. Note that you will be assessed on your knowledge of the chapter vocabulary and content during the second week of school through a quiz and a test. I will provide more information during the first week of school once we are together as a class.

Due Dates: ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE START OF YOUR FIRST AP GOV CLASS ON MONDAY, AUGUST 25. Some assignments will simply need to be uploaded to Google Classroom, and others I will check in class for completion, so please read your directions carefully in regard to what needs to be uploaded to Google Classroom and what simply needs to be shown in class.

1. **Google Classroom:** Join the AP Gov Google Classroom using the invitation sent to your school email account. It is here that you will be able to upload specific summer assignments listed below.

If you are new to Steward and cannot access Google Classroom before the school year, please email James.Haske@stewardschool.org for instructions and resources.

2. Textbook Activities

due date: Monday, August 25 estimated time: 2 hours

- Read **Chapter 1 (American Government and Politics), pages 4-16** in the textbook *Presidential Election Update American Government: Stories of a Nation: For the AP Course*. You are not required to take notes as you read, but it is highly recommended that you complete this reading, and future readings, to have a deep understanding of the course content.
 - One strategy is to make a copy of the Chapter 1 textbook presentation [here](#) and add your notes to the existing presentation, which can then be used later for review.
- **Define** the following key terms from Chapter 1. Choose a method that works best for you. Some students write the definitions by hand in a notebook and keep an ongoing list. Some use a digital document with an ongoing list, and some prefer Quizlet. It is recommended that you use the textbook's definitions because those will be used on the vocabulary quizzes you have in class. These will be checked **IN CLASS, FOR COMPLETION, ON MONDAY, AUGUST 25.**
 1. politics
 2. government
 3. democracy
 4. natural rights

5. social contract
 6. American political culture
 7. popular sovereignty
 8. republicanism
 9. inalienable rights
 10. liberty
 11. participatory democracy
 12. civil society groups
 13. pluralist theory
 14. elitist theory
 15. political institutions
 16. constitutional republic
- Complete the Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) located [here](#) for Chapter 1. This will be a homework completion grade but do your best to answer all questions correctly. You can use your textbook to assist you, but please answer the questions independently. Please **UPLOAD TO GOOGLE CLASSROOM** under the appropriate assignment when done. You can make a digital copy of the document, complete the MCQs, and then upload your answers to Google Classroom, OR you can print out a copy, complete it by hand, take a photo of your completed MCQs, and then upload the images to Google Classroom.
 - Read **pages 3 and 4, How to Master the Foundational Documents**, in the *Document Reader for American Government: Stories of a Nation: For the AP® Course*. There are a total of **9** required foundational documents that you will have to know and understand by May 2026. You are encouraged to highlight and annotate as you read through this section. The recommendations found here are very valuable. This is **NOT GRADED**.
 - Read **the Declaration of Independence on pages 5 – 11** of the *Document Reader for American Government: Stories of a Nation: For the AP® Course*. As you read, you are required to annotate (**at least 3 per page**). Annotations may include but are not limited to those noted below. The purpose of your annotations should be that they allow you to go back and understand key parts of the text, and your annotations should allow you to discuss the text with your classmates. This will be checked **IN CLASS, FOR COMPLETION, ON MONDAY, AUGUST 25**.
 - Circling/underlining unfamiliar words and then defining them
 - Underlining key passages
 - Recording questions, connections, key discoveries, and confusions
 - Answer the 4 **Check for Understanding** questions on **page 11**. Please write in full sentences and be sure to actually “**explain**” and “**describe**.” Please **UPLOAD TO GOOGLE CLASSROOM** under the appropriate assignment when done.

RECOMMENDED BUT NOT REQUIRED

One way to have an advantage in AP Gov is to follow what is happening in our country regarding government and politics. Every single day, there are news headlines connected to our course. If you make it a daily habit to check in with a reliable news outlet of your preference, you will be even more familiar with the course terminology, and you will be able to make 'real' connections to what you are learning. The three resources below are a basic starting place, and you are more than welcome to look beyond them for your news.

- [The Week – Daily Briefing](#)
- [CNN - 5 Things to Know](#)
- [NPR Politics Podcast](#)