

AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Summer Preparation Research Project

Welcome to AP United States Government and Politics. This year will be a new and exciting year of adventure, challenge, enlightenment, exploration, and growth as a student and a Christian. The following is a required summer research project that is due on the first day of class. I must have a hard copy and electronic copy. **It will be counted as a project grade for the first quarter. Project grades count as 20% of your class grade.** Its purpose is to cover important matter in more detail than the schedule during the year allows me to cover. This material will also be on the first formal assessment on Friday, August 19th.

- I. Prompt: You will write a research paper responding to the following prompt:
- A. “The Founding Fathers of the United States had a vision of the relationship between the Executive branch and the Legislative branch of the US government. What was that vision and why did they have that vision; and since 2001, what has the relationship become?” Your answer should include specific references to important governmental documents including, but not limited to, Declaration of Independence, Federalist Papers, Constitution, laws, Supreme Court cases and actions.
 - B. All of these documents are available for free on the internet

- II. General Instructions
- A. The research paper must be typed.
 - B. The research paper must be your own work.
 - C. It must be at least 1500 words.
 - D. It must follow standard MLA format
 - 1. Double spaced
 - 2. 12 pt font
 - 3. Title page
 - E. **IT MUST HAVE PROPER MLA CITATIONS**
 - 1. Remember, failure to cite is plagiarism which results in a grade of 0
 - F. **IT IS DUE MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2011.**
 - 1. The electronic copy must be in my email by 9:00 am Monday morning.
 - 2. My email address is rpibl@gracechristian.net

- III. Grading Rubric
- A. Essay structure; Introduction, conclusion and multiple support paragraphs 5 points
 - B. Thesis that answers the question 5 points
 - C. Thesis that is detailed, explicit and fully responsive to question 10 points
 - D. Correct grammar and spelling 10 points
 - E. Supports paragraphs that begin with reference to thesis and theme 10 points
 - F. Transition sentences for each paragraph 5 points
 - G. At least 5 SPECIFIC FACTS per support paragraph 15 points
 - H. Analysis of each specific fact to your thesis 30 points
 - I. Proper MLA citations 10 points

- IV. Sources: So long as they are properly cited and reasonably legitimate, any source is useable. This includes, but is not limited to, internet, books, magazines, movies, documentaries.
 - A. In addition, during the summer, I will provide additional resources on my wiki site that may aid in your paper.
 - B. You may contact me through the wiki site or my email with questions.
 - C. You may share resources with each other.

- V. To the extent anyone is interested in purchasing their own used textbook to use for this paper and during the year, here is the full title with ICBN number of the textbook we will use during the year.
 - A. Janda, Kenneth; The Challenge of Democracy, 10th Ed. (Wadsworth Cengage Learning, Boston, MA, 2009)
 - 1. ICBN 13: 978-0-54720494-9