

PSHS: AP Government: Summer Assignment 2017

Directions: Complete the following questions about the U.S. Constitution. Upon arriving to class, it is important that you know what the Constitution looks like, its elements, and a working knowledge of its language and purposes.

Find the U.S. Constitution at www.constitutioncenter.org or <https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/#preamble> (more detailed)

Response details-you are welcome to respond to each item directly on this paper and you are welcome to type your responses. If you write directly on this sheet, feel free to attach another sheet of paper if you should need it.

Part I: The Preamble

List the goals of the preamble and summarize what each these goals means in your own words:

- 1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Why are these goals significant to a democracy?

How does the Preamble impact your life now and in the future?

Part II: The Articles (for each Article, think about how these "rules" protect the citizens of the United States)

Article I: Talks about the _____ branch of government.

-The _____ branch of government consists of two houses:

- 1.
2.

-Representative Requirements

Senator Requirements

-Age:

Age:

-Residency:

Residency:

-Term Length:

Term Length:

-How many representatives does each state at least get? _____

-Who has the sole power of Impeachment? _____ (The House or the Senate?)

-Who has the sole power to TRY all impeachment cases? _____(The House or the Senate?)

-Who is the leader of the House of Representatives? _____ The Senate? _____

-How many times a year must Congress meet? _____

-Congressmen are free from arrest while in office except for what offenses?

-Bills for raising revenue must originate where? _____

-In order for a bill to become law, who must it go through? _____

-If the President veto's a bill, what fraction is needed to override the veto? _____

-Section 8 lists all the expressed powers of Congress, list 5 of their powers and tell me why you think these are the most important:

-Section X lists the denied powers of the states. List 2 things that states are denied of and why do you think these denied powers are important.

-How do the denied powers of the states and the expressed powers of Congress complement each other (if they do) or antagonize one another (if they do)? Why do these definitions of powers exist?

Article II:

-Talks about the _____ branch of government

-How old must one be to hold the office of President? _____

-Residency Requirement? _____

-How long does one serve as President? _____

-Section 2 discusses the powers of the President. List 5 of those powers and explain their significance.

-Why are these powers expressly reserved for the President?

-For what reasons can the President, Vice President, and all civil officers be removed from office? Are there safeguards meant to protect the country if all were to be removed from office? Why?

Article III:

-Talks about the _____ branch of government.

-Summarize what section 2 says about Judicial Power.

- What is treason?
- How is Article III similar to Articles I and II?

-Further Articles I, II, III thoughts:

According to the principle of checks and balances, each branch of the government must have control over the other branches. Look at the first three articles of the Constitution and identify one of each type of checks and balances. Indicate where each power is listed in the Constitution (article/section):

- How does the Executive check the Legislative?
- How does the Executive check the Judicial?
- How does the Legislative check the Executive?
- How does the Legislative check the Judicial?
- How does the Judicial check the Executive?
- How does the Judicial check the Legislative?

Article IV:

- What is your overall understanding of Article IV?
- Summarize each section in one sentence.

- Section 1:
- Section 2:
- Section 3:
- Section 4:

Article V:

- What is the purpose of Article V?
- Congress can propose an amendment with _____ fraction of a vote.
- State legislatures can ratify an amendment with _____ approval of state legislatures.

Article VI:

- Summarize the purpose of Article VI:

Article VII:

- Summarize the purpose of Article VII:

Part III - THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

-Some parts of the Constitution require a *simple majority*, others a *supermajority*, while still others protect citizens from the will of the majority. The first ten amendments to the Constitution, *the Bill of Rights*, protects citizens from the will of the majority. In other words, no majority could vote to take these rights away. Read each amendment to the Constitution and answer the questions below.

I. Outline the general purpose of the first 10 Amendments.

Amendment 1 –

Amendment 2 -

Amendment 3 –

Amendment 4 –

Amendment 5 –

Amendment 6—

Amendment 7 –

Amendment 8 –

Amendment 9 –

Amendment 10:

Amendments 11-27

- Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of women?
- What is the significance of the 18th and 21st amendments?
- Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of African Americans?
- How were US Senators chosen before the Seventeenth Amendment?
- Which Amendment states when the President’s term begins and ends?

- Which amendment states the term limits for the President? When was this amendment passed? Why?
- Which amendment prohibits poll taxes?

- What is the purpose the 25th amendment?
- In which amendment was the voting age lowered to 18?
- Which amendment created the federal income tax? Why was this amendment created?

Current Event Dialectical Journal

Details:

*Watch, listen, or read the news at least **5** different times, from five separate weeks, and write a reflection for each; this assignment should be completed throughout the summer. Please attach the article to your journal. Remember your goal is to better understand how the government operates and how the Constitution, our governing document, influences/impacts, etc. those events.

*Note the date, source, and title of the news item in the left column, summarize the article, and reflect on the events of the article (Write a response, thoughts, and questions you have in the right hand column – ***Connect your responses and questions to ideas found within the Constitution***):

- The impact of this event/decision on the US government.
- The consequences of this event/decision (good/bad)
- How the event/decision should have happened differently or why the event was correct, as is.
- Why did you choose the article?

*Please type up your own neatly organized table with your **5 entries on either watching the news or reading current news sources** and explanations. Include at least 2 written articles (from newspapers, magazines or journals) that you will turn-in with your table. The articles must be at least a page long; you may cut out articles from the newspaper or print out articles from online magazines/ news sources (ideas for study: **foreign policy** (U.S. relations with foreign countries) or **national/domestic policy** (examples would include: Homeland Security, immigration, taxes, healthcare reform, education, judicial nominations, the economy, judicial nomination hearings). See the sample table below for further guidance:

News Item/Source/topic/Passage or Quote: Example: New York Times/6/11/09/Economy: Why the U.S. is in Debt. “We have nothing to lose except debt. We have everything to gain from an honest money system.”	Student Response: (should be 3-4 sentences at least) I wonder I agree..... Why..... I believe..... I disagree.... I think..... How..... *You do not need to use these sentence starters, but they give you an idea of what I am looking for in response. Be sure to explore how the Constitution (preamble, Bill of Rights, etc. connect to the current events you have selected.
I.	