

AP US Government & Politics Summer Assignment.

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Due: Tuesday, September 8th (10% off each day it is late)

Philosophy of the Summer Assignment: We are entering an exciting election season and the summer assignment will focus on the events leading up to November's general election. These assignments will provide you with background knowledge on the election, media, political parties, and candidates. Additionally, the assignment will provide a good energy level for the course and class discussions.

These grades will be significant for your first quarter grade (which will be sent to your prospective colleges). Work hard! You will not achieve full points just for completion; you will be graded on your higher level thinking and writing skills. Please pay attention to the recommended page limits.

Here is what we are looking for:

Analysis: It essentially means to pick something apart. So, you can do any of the following (you don't have to do ALL of this): make observations on content, identify the significant ideas and conclusions, determine who the intended audience is, discuss methods being used to convey the message, articulate if the message is clear and effective, and determine if the conclusions are logical and make sense. Analyzing is a demand to THINK about something.

Reflection: This is fun. This is your opinion. What do YOU think? Support your ideas and opinions, because without reasons, they are empty. You can also present questions, or make suggestions. This is your personal critique – what you learned and what you thought about – cognitively and emotionally.

There is no need for MLA page headings! One page is one page! Use 12 pt. font (Times New Roman / Calibri)! Use 1" margins!

If you have any questions:

If you encounter any problems or have questions, contact us with any questions at dbrigance@ucfsd.net and ncarter@ucfsd.net. We check our e-mail periodically throughout the summer.

Part A: Presidential Candidate Editorials (20 points)

Read two editorials (one in support and one against) the Democratic and Republican presidential candidate. This is a total of four (4) editorials.

Write a one page analysis and reflection for each candidate, summarizing these editorial positions and including your opinion on who would be the better choice for president.

- 20 points – 2 pages & works cited.

Part B: Political Perspective (30 points)

Please watch 30 minutes (minimum) of each these political shows. Watch Maddow and Carlson on the same night and watch Meet the Press on the Sunday of that week.

1. *Tucker Carlson* - conservative
2. *The Rachel Maddow* – liberal
3. *Meet the Press*

Take notes – handwritten or typed - (including the dates) and write two (2) pages comparing and contrasting the political perspectives and styles of the three shows. Provide specific evidence from the shows for your conclusions.

- 30 points – 2 pages & notes

Part C: Political Typology (15 points)

Please visit <http://www.people-press.org/quiz/political-typology/> and take the quiz. Consider the answers carefully and research any topics you are unfamiliar with.

Write a one page reflection on your results and print your results.

- 15 points – 1 page & test results

Part D: National Conventions (30 points)

The Republican National Convention is from August 24th - 27th. The Democratic National Convention is from August 17th - 20th. Please watch each candidate's speech.

Take notes and submit your notes with a two page reflection discussing what you agree with and disagree with for each candidate.

- 30 points – 4 pages & notes

Rubric:

Part A: Presidential Candidate Editorials (20 points)

Analysis & Reflection contained a strength for each presidential candidate: _____ / 4 points

Analysis & Reflection contained a criticism for each presidential candidate: _____ / 4 points

Student provided opinion and support for their choice of candidate: _____ / 4 points

Thorough analysis of editorials: _____ / 2 points

Analysis & Reflection was two (2) pages: _____ / 2 points

MLA Works Cited: _____ / 4 points

Part B: Political Perspective (30 points)

Thorough and detailed notes for all three political shows: _____ / 3 points

Student has thoroughly compared the shows' political perspectives: _____ / 12 points

Student has thoroughly compared the shows' styles: _____ / 12 points

Student has cited specific evidence to support answers: _____ / 3 points

Part C: Political Typology (15 points)

Printed copy of test results: _____ / 5 points

Thorough reflection of typology results: _____ / 8 points

Student cited life/personal experience supporting their reflection: _____ / 2 points

Part D: National Conventions (30 points)

Notes for each candidate's speech: _____ / 4 points

Thorough reflection of each speech (discussing strengths and weaknesses): _____ / 20 points

Student has cited specific evidence to support answers: _____ / 2 points

Reflection was four (4) pages: _____ / 4 points

TOTAL SCORE: _____ / 95 POINTS