

There are two things that I would like you to do over the summer to prepare for this course:

--**Have a restful and enjoyable summer.** You are more likely to do well in this course if you have recharged over the summer!

--**Follow the news.** If you can relate the theoretical concepts to actual events, you are much more likely to understand and retain the material. You will also do a better job on the free response section of my tests (not to mention the AP test) if you can use real-life political examples. Finally, if you do a good job of following the news, you will probably do well on the **summer news events quiz that I give on the first day of class.** If you don't follow the news, you will certainly bomb that quiz and be off to a poor start!!

I suggest that you get into a daily routine of following the news in some fashion. These are some recommendations:

--Check the following website each day: [cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/](http://cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/) You may also subscribe to the site's free service that automatically emails a summary of each week's major stories.

--Read the Los Angeles Times. Read the key stories on the front page that relate to national news. Check out the editorials, letters to the editor, and the "op-ed" pieces.

--Watch a network (not local) news broadcast that concentrates on national news. Try the PBS News Hour.

--Watch a news-orientated program such as "The O'Reilly Factor," or "Anderson Cooper 360."

--For some laughs, watch the Daily Show or Colbert Report on Comedy Central.

--Read the weekly news magazines: Time, Newsweek, US News and World Report.

--Listen to National Public Radio (NPR) in the mornings or late afternoons.

--Listen to talk radio shows that are politically orientated, Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Michael Savage.

Follow the news will not require a large investment of your time, but you will definitely see positive results from doing so.

I am looking forward to being your teacher in the fall!!

*Mrs. Flanagan*