

## Summer Assignment- AP Government 2009-2010 (Carpenter/Kroesch)

The following assignments must be completed over the summer for those students enrolled in Advanced Placement US Government and Politics. Overall your assignment is about 12-14 hours.

1. **Current Events: (4 hours):** Choose 1 significant current event from each of the following areas. The articles should be from a variety of weeks. (8 current events)
  - A. Areas:
    - *Foreign Policy* (U.S. Relations with Foreign Countries) (2 articles)
    - *National domestic policy* (Homeland Security, Social Security, Welfare, Healthcare, Taxes, Education) (2 articles)
    - *State domestic policy* (California issues) (2 articles)
    - *Local domestic policy* (San Diego issues) (2 articles)
  - B. Cut out or print out one article on each issue once a week. Write a paragraph summary of the event and a paragraph analysis. (analysis includes your reaction, opinion and commentary)
2. **Governmental Organizational Chart:** You are to identify the person holding each of the following positions in our government (4 hours)
  - a. **Executive Branch** (Presidency)
    - President
    - Vice-President
    - Chief of Staff
    - Members of the President's cabinet
    - National Security Advisor
  - b. **Legislative Branch** (House of Representatives):
    - Speaker of House
    - Majority Leader
    - Minority Leader
    - Representatives for San Diego County
    - Current Political party make-up (republicans and democrats)
  - c. **Legislative Branch** (Senate):
    - Pres. Pro Tempore
    - Majority Leader
    - Minority Leader
    - California's U.S. Senators
    - Current political party make-up
  - d. **Judicial Branch** (Supreme Court):
    - List all 9 justices, in order of length of time on the bench and identify their lean (conservative, liberal, swing)
3. **Research** these debate topics. Find information about the topic and list the pros and cons for the topic. Also, add what **questions** you would like to ask about the topic. Finally, what is most **interesting** about the topic. (5 hours)
  - a. **Social Security-** Should social security be privatized?
  - b. **Censorship-** To what extent should the government have control over the media (if any)?
  - c. **Stem Cell Research-** To what extent should the government impose limitations on stem cell research?
  - d. **Three Strikes Law-** Should the three strikes law be amended?
  - e. **Illegal Immigration-** What should be done about illegal immigration?