AP Government & Politics Summer Assignment

Course Description:

The State of Connecticut has mandated the successful completion of a Civics course as a requirement for high school graduation. The Legislature believes that young citizens must be fully aware of the principles of a democratic republic, the institutions and structures developed to foster those principles, and the rights and duties that accrue to citizens of a free state. The AP U.S. Government and Politics curriculum is designed for students who wish to go beyond the minimum state requirement and extend their study of government to a deeper, full year experience. A brief review of important elements in U.S. History will occur at the outset of the fall term in order to provide students with core knowledge essential to contextual understanding of events that follow. Summer reading is required.

The class will be conducted in a seminar style and students will be involved in both group and individual projects. Dialectical inquiry will be a primary format in the course. Students will learn: practiced annotation of assigned historical reading, research techniques and proper citation of sources, direct interpretation of documents, formal writing, thematic lineage of relative events, mastery of linear-chronological sequencing, rhetorical presentation of ideas, argumentation, guided practice of legal and governmental functions in simulation. Students will also explore the interpretation and creation of tables, graphs, and statistics as they relate to demography, voting blocs, budgets, and societal behaviors. Most importantly, students are encouraged to assume responsibility for one’s own intellectual growth.

All students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam for AP U.S. Government and Politics. The demanding nature of the curriculum is designed to this end. Students enrolled at the AP level should be highly motivated, prepared for a college text, and capable of meeting intense supplementary reading requirements.

In a world that is sometimes hostile to our most basic ideals: individual rights and freedoms, equality before the law, limited government, religious and philosophical tolerance, and popular sovereignty, it is very important to understand how our government works. It is also imperative that citizens participate in governing themselves. This course will be dedicated to those major goals.

Summer Assignments:

1. Read & Annotate "Common Sense" by Thomas Paine - [Interview assessment upon return to school]
2. Read & Annotate "The Law" by Frederic Bastiat - [Interview assessment upon return to school]
3. Print, fill-out, and hand-in the Annotated Declaration of Independence Worksheet (attached) - due the 1st day of class
4. Print, fill-out and hand-in the Office Holder and Party Affiliation Worksheet (attached) - [QUIZ 1st DAY OF CLASS]
5. Take the Political Compass Test (see link below). Print the Personalized Certificate - due on 1st day of class

ALL WORK IS POSTED ON GOOGLE CLASSROOM

GOOGLE CLASSROOM ACCESS CODE: oikdge