

A.P. American Government and Politics
2010 Summer Assignment

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PLATO: The price of apathy towards public affairs is to be ruled by evil men.

Summer Assignments Overview

Choose one of the 2 following assignments, due on the first day of school!!! The 3rd assignment is a requirement for all. We will have a quiz so complete the terms AND STUDY them for a vocabulary quiz on day.

1. BLOG/CURRENT EVENT ASSIGNMENT (150 points) (THIS IS PREFERRED...if you don't have a computer, I imagine you know someone who does or you can use one in the public libraries.

- Access www.APvoicesGunderson.blogspot.com.
- Register as a member of this blog; this is necessary in order to post a response.
- Check the blog once-twice a week. Every weekend I will post an article, excerpts from books, a current event question, or a Free Response Question (FQR) on the blog for you to read with a question(s) to which I expect a response.
- Your Blog postings should be well articulated and contain a minimum of 100 words each. Remember that the group will read your responses – and you may receive feedback. In fact, feedback is encouraged... so read and respond to what other people say AND be ready to defend your own opinions.
- Each blog response is worth a maximum of 15 points and you can expect 10 postings.
- Regularly responding to the blog can significantly boost your grade...or hurt your grade. Your choice. I may occasionally post an extra credit article and question, but I only accept extra credit from students who regularly complete their assignments.

OR

2. *HARDBALL* - Chris Matthews (revised and updated version)

As you read this book, write a paragraph about each of the following quotes. Explain the context in which Matthews uses the statement and attempt to connect the quote/his context to recent or current events. Each response should be a well-developed paragraph. Feel free to quote the book.

1. LBJ's famous line, "*It's not who you know, it's who you get to know.*" Explain.
2. Explain Tip O'Neill's favorite quote, "*All politics is local,*"
3. Ross Perot's Machiavellian tactic: "*If you want to make a friend, get someone to do you a favor.*" Explain.
4. What did Ronald Reagan mean when he said, "*Dance with the one that brung ya.*"
5. Concerning politics, what is meant by "*Keep your friends close...your enemies closer.*"
6. Define the political term *Wholesale Politics*.
7. Define the political term *Retail Politics*.
8. What is meant by the *Politics of Spin*?
9. What does Matthews mean by "*Hanging out a lantern on your problem.*"
10. Define the journalism terms: *deep background*; *on background*; *off the record*.
11. Interpret the following statement: In this world of power, there is always someone in charge of the butter.

PLUS...REQUIRED FOR ALL

Define, study and know the following terms. You will turn these in. These are terms that are common vernacular in political science and terms that I will throw around with the assumption that you know what I mean. Learn them. Know them. Use them.

Administration	majority	Political Party
Polarization	minority	ideology
Left wing	nonpartisan	constitutional
Right wing	politics	electorate
GOP	political agenda	amendment
Liberal	politics	mass media
Conservative	lobby (verb/noun)	faction
Partisan	moderate	bias/biased/unbiased
Bipartisan	copyright	recession
Gridlock	bill	Gallup-poll
Public opinion	democracy	Constituency