

AP GOVERNMENT AND AP MACROECONOMICS SUMMER READING AND ASSIGNMENT

In order to prepare for AP Government and AP Macroeconomics and your senior year, you have three summer assignments:

News Journal:

Your first assignment, which is due the first day of school, is for you to keep a journal of the political and economic news you follow over the summer. Particular attention should be paid to news about Congress, the President, the Supreme Court, the Federal Reserve, economic indicators (unemployment rate, GDP predictions) and foreign trade. Your journal should have at least two entries per week. Include the source, date and content discussed, as well as your reaction. **Your reading and viewing should include the following news sources and programs:**

<i>The New York Times</i>	www.nytimes.com
<i>The Wall Street Journal</i>	www.wsj.com
<i>The Washington Post</i>	www.washingtonpost.com
<i>National Public Radio</i>	www.npr.com
<i>The Economist</i>	www.economist.com
<i>Time</i>	www.time.com/time
<i>U.S. News and World Report</i>	www.usnews.com

Public Affairs Television Programs

<i>PBS NewsHour</i>	<i>The Situation Room, CNN</i>
<i>This Week with George Stephanopoulos, ABC</i>	<i>The O'Reilly Factor, Fox News</i>
<i>The Chris Matthews Show, NBC, CNBC</i>	

Political Cartoons

www.cagle.com/politicalcartoons

Political Satire

The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, Comedy Central, www.thedailyshow.com
The Colbert Report, Comedy Central, www.colbertnation.com

You may also want to watch some of the movies and documentaries from list below:

Political Comedies/Political Documentaries: *Wag the Dog, Man of the Year, Swing Vote, W, Charlie Wilson's War, Primary Colors, The Distinguished Gentleman, The War Room, Journey's With George*

Economics-related Films/Documentaries: *Food Inc., Roger & Me - Michael Moore, Inside Job, Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price, Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps, Blue Gold*

The reason that I ask you to begin preparing for the course in the summer is because you will get so much more out of class discussions, and enhance your knowledge of the workings of government and economics if you are paying attention to the real world news that is going on, rather than reading about old examples from textbooks. The AP exams are, of course, not based on your knowledge of current events; but a knowledge of and interest in current issues, will help you to learn and apply the material much more effectively than trying to memorize topics which you feel have no connection to your life.

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Summer Reading Assignment:

Your second assignment is to select at least one book, from the list below, to read this summer. You will be required to do an in-class writing assignment on the book during the first few days of school. If you are also taking AP Literature, you may use either of the selections assigned by Ms. Alvarez, thus providing you with both an interdisciplinary perspective, as well as a less stressful summer. If you find another title you would prefer, please email me at mgaleri@dadeschools.net to make sure it is an appropriate selection.

Suggested Books:

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

Deadly Spin, by Wendell Potter

The Majesty of the Law, by Sandra Day O'Connor

Gideon's Trumpet by Anthony Lewis

1776 by David McCollough

The President's Club: Inside the World's Most Exclusive Fraternity, by Nancy Gibbs, Michael Duffy

Autobiographies by recent Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Cabinet Members

Naked Economics by Charles Wheelan

Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser

The Choice: A Fable of Free Trade and Protectionism by Russell D. Roberts

The World is Flat by Thomas L. Friedman

Worldly Philosophers – Life, Times and Ideas of Great Economic Thinkers

Your last assignment is to use your summer wisely, because before you know it, senior year, with all its deadlines will be upon you. Study for your SAT/ACT, check out college websites, visit the "College Planning" site on www.Collegeboard.org and enjoy your summer!