

“No society can make a perpetual constitution, or even a perpetual law. The earth belongs always to the living generation...Every constitution, then, and every law, naturally expires at the end of 19 years. If it be enforced longer, it is an act of force and not of right.” —**Thomas Jefferson** (in a letter to James Madison from Paris, September 6, 1789)



Advanced Placement

Government & Politics SUMMER READING 2017

Welcome to AP Government! WOW! What an election season last year, politics to levels we hadn't seen before both domestically and globally. What now? Well, questions of can they govern. President Trump and a GOP Congress, Putin, the UK and the EU and more give us great events to follow and get involved in as Political Warriors. With diplomacy and political quarrels on both the American and international stages, it should be a fascinating year. Your first assignment will be to follow current events, as they will be an important part of our curriculum. Read the paper (*moment of silence for print journalism*), watch the news, follow political *Twitter* sites (@ChrisWolak1 and others) and check out a blog you should bookmark: www.politicalwarriorwv.blogspot.com/

To give you foundational knowledge that you can drop on us when we meet together in the fall, you will be engaging in two summer reading assignments. First, all students will read ***A More Perfect Constitution*** by Larry Sabato (ISBN-10: 0802716830; ISBN-13: 978-0802716835). Students will also read the summarized articles linked below using the perspectives out of:

“(the class) gave much needed focus on current events and I was thrilled...some of us are so busy trying to understand textbook examples that we never try to learn what is happening in reality. Thanks for keeping it real.”

■ Ester Fang, class of 2014

On the Wrong Side of Globalization

By Joseph Stiglitz

AND

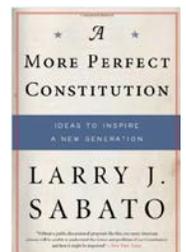
Globalization and the Flat World

By Thomas Friedman

The following assignments are below. If you have any questions on the assignments, feel free to e-mail me at: chris_wolak@ipsd.org. You should bring your books with you on the first day of school. We will use your Globalization paper on the first Friday of class. We will drop knowledge on a More Perfect Constitution at the end of Week 2...but DO NOT delay, get started early to be efficient, even if that is UNLIKE our real government.

Part I: A More Perfect Constitution

All students will be reading “A More Perfect Constitution”. This book will be the foundation of our first unit and it is imperative that you read carefully and thoroughly. The Author, Larry Sabato, founder and director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia, wrote this intriguing book to challenge citizens to reexamine a document written over 200 years ago. He argues that our current political dysfunction is a result of our outdated system that is in need of revision. He argues for a 21st century Constitution Convention to revise the document.



Directions:

Step I: Note Taking/Annotations

Take good notes so that you will remember what you have read and so that your teacher can determine that you have read the book. Note taking from our assigned texts and supplemental readings will be an important part of the course. Find out what strategy works best for you. As you write down ideas from the book, you are more likely to retain that information and be able to summarize what is really important.

- Highlight key terms, quotes and interesting facts
- Annotate the text - be sure to include important concepts presented by the author
- If you do not purchase a book that you can write in or if you are using a Kindle version, please use post-it notes or retype your notes
- We want to see that you read the book and put time into summarizing the author's points
- Be prepared to show your notes to your teacher
- Please make sure you READ and ANNOTATE the entire Constitution found in the appendix of the book

Step II: Book Analysis

In a persuasive, structured, MLA-style essay, answer the following questions: (your essay should be approximately 2-3 pages typed and include in-text citations from the book).

1. Do you agree with Thomas Jefferson's advice that the Constitution should be revised and amended in each generation or do you believe that amendments should, according to James Madison, be undertaken only under "great and extraordinary occasions?" Make a claim citing evidence from the book for support.
 2. If a Constitutional Convention were called, identify **THREE** amendments proposed by Sabato that you think should be addressed. Explain why. How would these amendments affect public participation in our American democracy? Discuss and explain which reforms you think would most increase citizen engagement and involvement?
 3. After reading Sabato's book, do you think there should be another Constitutional Convention? Will this method of constitutional reform work? Why or why not?
- Be ready to participate **actively** in the discussion of the book during the first week of school. You will need to share your knowledge of the book, your opinions (**be a critical reader**), and your analytical skills.

Part II: As Americans Looking Out at the World....

- Read the linked articles:

<https://spu.edu/depts/uc/response/autumn2k7/features/globalization-in-a-flat-world.asp>

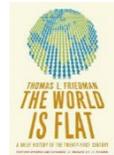
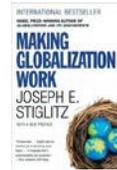
Globalization and the Flat World (Friedman)

http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/03/15/on-the-wrong-side-of-globalization/?_r=0

**On the Wrong Side of Globalization
(Stiglitz)**

- Take a side on the global debate – Globalization is a unit we will open with in the comparative portion of the class, but view from an American lens often during the first semester. These are summaries of sides taken by Joseph Stiglitz – whose ***Making Globalization Work*** explains the functions and powers of the main institutions that govern globalization. Thomas Friedman’s ***The World is Flat*** says globalization is ushering in an era of globalization in which the playing field is leveled. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ THE BOOKS – JUST READ AND ANNOTATE THE TWO ARTICLES**, and using supports, write a 1-2 page position paper with the following topical ideas as a guide post:

- Globalization is good in theory but bad in institutional practice; (Stiglitz)
- Globalization is good for developed countries, less good for less developed countries or vice-versa; (Stiglitz)
- The IMF, World Bank, United Nations, G-8 should be more/less powerful; (Stiglitz)
- Is the idea of globalization a “winner” or a “loser” in America? (Both)
- Globalization is a positive force around the world (Stiglitz)
- Are the 10 flatteners (Friedman) valid? Which require computers to be effective?
- What will a ‘Flat World’ mean to the world’s poor? (Friedman)
- Assess Friedman’s statement: “In China today, Bill Gates is Britney Spears. In America today, Britney Spears is Britney Spears -- and that is our problem.” (Friedman)



Class Texts

1. Patterson, Thomas E. *The American Democracy*, with PowerWeb, 7th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.
2. Charles Hauss, Melissa Haussman. *Comparative Politics Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*, 8th ed. Boston: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2005.

Notes

1. *You may purchase books at Anderson’s in downtown Naperville. It is also available at Amazon.com (used for as little as 3 cents last I checked). DON’T WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE TO FIND THE BOOK.*
2. *Copy of this document will be available on the WVHS website.*
3. *You will enjoy the summer work more if you don’t wait till the end of the summer to do it. It might help you think about the world around you this summer!*