

# AP Government Summer Assignment 2019-20

Welcome to Advanced Placement Government and Politics. I'm pleased you've qualified to take the course and that you've decided to enroll. I'm looking forward to teaching this course – political science is a personal passion of mine and is my primary academic background. To jumpstart the course, you will have a summer assignment to complete. **The assignment will be due September 17.** However, given the nature of the assignment I strongly suggest that this assignment be completed week by week.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Keep a weekly log of politically relevant global current events over the summer. Because this class has an emphasis on both global and domestic current events, you will be expected to keep up on events both over the summer and throughout the school year. Each week of the summer beginning with the week of **Monday June 24** and ending with the week of **August 26** (a total of 10 weeks), you will read two news stories on a major current event and record it in the style you see below.

You may choose a commentary or opinion article if you like, so long as it sufficiently describes the event on its own. For each week, one story you choose must have a global focus, and the other must have a domestic focus. Please save your log in one file as you go; I will give you information about how to submit it electronically when the school year begins.

*Example:*

## **Week of 5/7/18**

**Title:** Trump Greets 3 Americans Freed From North Korea

**Author:** Katie Rogers

**Date:** May 10, 2018

**Major people/groups/institutions involved:** President Trump, Kim Jong-un, North Korea, Mike Pompeo

**Summary and political implications:** After being freed from prison in North Korea as a goodwill gesture ahead of talks later this month, three Americans arrived at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland in the middle of the night, where President Trump greeted them and publicly thanked Kim Jong-un for freeing them. He indicated that he hoped the talks would go well, as evidenced by North Korea's interest toward a more peaceful solution signaled by the release. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo helped secure their release after his visit to North Korea last week, when he laid groundwork for the talks by meeting with Kim. Many of the details of the talks have not been solidified yet, including the venue and the date.

**Analysis:** [What your own opinion or views on the event. This can be about the larger issue, the political forces surrounding the issue, etc.]

## Optional Reading Assignment

If you would like some course-related summer reading, I have provided some options for you below. Each presents an argument about a domestic or international political topic, and deal with topics we will explore in class.

### **Books:**

- *Shattered: Inside Hillary Clinton's Doomed Campaign* by Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes
- *Fear: Trump in the White House* by Bob Woodward
- *Heroic Failure: Brexit and the Politics of Pain* by Fintan O'Toole
- *The Post-American World: Release 2.0* by Fareed Zakaria
- *The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin* by Masha Gessen
- *China in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: What Everyone Needs to Know* by Jeffrey Wasserstrom
- *The Ayatollah Begs to Differ: The Paradox of Modern Iran* by Hooman Majd

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If you have any questions, please feel free to email me. Over the summer I try to check my email roughly once a week. My email address is [pquinn@rtnj.org](mailto:pquinn@rtnj.org). Take care and have a great summer.



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