

# AP U.S. Government and Politics (GoPo) Summer Assignment

Mrs. Crawford

Jennifer\_Crawford@dekalbschoolsga.org

## Rationale:

It is crucial AP Government students are aware of current events and news issues. I want you to get in the habit of following the news, and get excited about it! Delve in! Don't be superficial-know more than the *what*, know the *why* and ask questions about national events. Specifically, look for national events that will influence policy (healthcare, tax policy) or news that comes from government action (court decisions, executive action in foreign nations.)

## Your job:

- 1) This summer, you will find and follow a news story that interests you for **3 weeks, twice each week (6 times total.)** Pick one story that will be on- going: the situation in Syria or North Korea, US/Russia relationship, any interesting current court cases (Supreme Court, US Appeals Courts), pending Congressional legislation (The American Health Care Act, tax reform, federal government restructuring) or any other significant topic.
- 2) Following your news story could mean watching accredited TV news programs: NBC, ABC, CBS, MSNBC, CNN, Fox News; reading print magazines (*Times*, *Newsweek*) or newspapers; or following the story on-line. (Avoid comedic programs and print like *The Daily Show with John Stewart*, *The Colbert Report*, or *The Onion* along with obviously biased programs like *The Rachel Maddow Show* or *Tucker Carlson Tonight* for this assignment) You may use the same source, or different sources each of the 6 times you "check on" your story.

## Assignment:

- 1) As you get updates on your story, take notes, indicating the date and source of the story. Make sure to summarize the information IN YOUR OWN WORDS. This will be turned in. You will have six entries and a Works Cited PAGE at the end (APA format.)
- 2) At the end of the 3 week period, you will use the information to write an Editorial piece on your story with a definite position or purpose. You should consult <http://www.geneseo.edu/~bennett/EdWrite.htm> for characteristics and structure of an editorial. Make sure to have a good introduction with a thesis. Editorials have a "slant" or opinion, but they also clearly explain the issue, as well as mentioning opposing viewpoints. Editorials frequently offer suggestions or solutions and conclude with a powerful ending. This editorial and notes together will count as Independent Practice.

## Rubric \_\_\_\_\_/100

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| _____/10 | Strong introduction with a clear thesis/position                                      |
| _____/25 | Clear explanation of the issue with ample facts                                       |
| _____/10 | Clearly introduces opposing viewpoints, and logically refutes them                    |
| _____/10 | Proposes sound suggestions or solutions   |
| _____/10 | Structure: organization, writing style, flow, syntax, spelling, grammar, punctuation, |
| _____/30 | News notes: in own words, properly cited, 6 entries,                                  |
| _____/ 5 | Correctly formatted Works Cited page  |

**Due: 8/18 by 4:00pm** Completed editorial and summaries, along with Works Cited page

Please e-mail me over the summer if you have questions. I look forward to meeting you all in August!