

AP Government Summer Reading Assignment

As a part of the AP U.S. Government and Politics course you are required to read a politically related book and do a summary and reflection. You are to take rough outline notes as you read the book and attached them to your reports. You may do a second book for extra credit – No extra credit is available during the regular year.

1. Choose any book from the list below.
2. Check to see if the book listed below is available in a library before buying them.
3. Refer to the instructions for directions.

READING LIST

1. The 15 Biggest Lies About Politics - Major Garret
2. 40 More Years: How the Democrats Will Rule the Next Generation by James Carville and Rebecca Buckwalter-Poza (2009)
3. **The 48 Laws of Power – Robert Greene (Also AP Psych)**
4. A Slobbering Love Affair: The True (And Pathetic) Story of the Torrid Romance Between Barack Obama and the Mainstream Media by Bernard Goldberg (2009)
5. Alpha Dogs: The Americans who turned political spin into a global business – James Harding
6. All Politics is Local - Tip O'Neill
7. All too Human - George Stephanopolous
8. The Art of Political War - David Horowitz
9. The Audacity of Hope – Barack Obama
10. Bare Knuckles and Back Rooms: My Life in American Politics - Ed Rollins
11. Before the Storm: Barry Goldwater and the Unmaking of the American Consensus by Rick Perlstein (2009)
12. The Best Democracy Money Can Buy - Greg Pallast
13. Blinded by the Right - David Brock
14. The Broken Branch: How Congress Is Failing America and How to Get It Back on Track by T. E. Mann and N. J. Ornstein (2008)
15. The Buying of the Congress - Charles Lewis
16. The Buying of the President 2000 - Charles Lewis
17. A Call to Revolution - Martin L. Gross (how our tax dollars are squandered in Washington)
18. Closed Chambers - Edward Lazarus (how the U.S. Supreme Court operates)
19. The Coldest War - James Brady
20. Conscience of a Conservative by Barry Goldwater (2009)
21. The Conscience of a Liberal by Paul Krugman (2009)
22. The Conservative Soul by Andrew, Sullivan (2007)
23. The Corruption of American Politics: What Went Wrong and Why - Elizabeth Drew
24. The Courage of Their Convictions - Peter Irons ("freedom of expression" cases)
25. The Cousins' Wars; Religion, Politics and the Triumph of Anglo-America - Kevin Phillips
26. Crisis and Command: A History of Executive Power from George Washington to George W. Bush by John Yoo (2010)
27. Dead Center: Clinton-Gore Leadership and the Perils of Moderation - Burns and Sorensen
28. Do the Right Thing by Mike Huckabee (2008)
29. Don't Start the Revolution without Me – Jesse Ventura
30. Eat the Rich: A Treatise on Economics - P. J. O'Rourke
31. Echo Chamber: Rush Limbaugh and the Conservative Media Establishment by KH Jamieson and JN. Cappella (2010)
32. End the Fed by Ron Paul (2009)
33. The Enemy Within: Saving America from the Liberal Assault on Our Schools, Faith, and Military - Michael Savage
34. Everything You Think You Know About Politics and Why You Are Wrong - Kathleen Jameson

35. [Eyewitness to Power](#) - David Gergen
36. [Flawed Giant](#) - Robert Dalik (LBJ in action)
37. [Foxes in the Henhouse: How the Republicans Stole the South and the Heartland and What the Democrats Must Do to Run 'em Out](#) - Steve Jarding, Dave "Mudcat" Saunders, and Bob Kerrey
38. [Free Speech for Me, But not for Thee](#) - Nat Hentoff
39. [Front Row at the White House](#) - Helen Thomas
40. [The Future of Freedom](#) - Fareed Zakaria
41. [Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime](#) by John Heilemann and Mark Halperin (2010)
42. [Gideon's Trumpet](#) - Anthony Lewis (the story behind Gideon v. Wainwright)
43. [Hail to the Chief](#) - Robert Dalik
44. [Hard Call](#) – John McCain
45. [Hats in the Ring](#) - Brad Chapinsky
46. [Hell Fire Nation: The Politics of Sin in American History](#) - James Morone
47. [Hill Rat: Blowing the Lid Off Congress](#) by John L. Jackley
48. [Hillary Rodham Clinton: A First Lady for our Time](#) - Donnie Radcliffe
49. [How to Run for Local Office : A Complete, Step-By-Step Guide that Will Take You Through the Entire Process of Running and Winning a Local Election](#) by Robert J. Thomas
50. [How Women Legislate](#) - Sue Thomas
51. [If Democrats Had Any Brains, They'd Be Republicans](#) by Ann Coulter (2008)
52. [In Defense of Government: The Fall and Rise of Public Trust](#) - Jacob Weisberg
53. [Lies and the Lying Liars That Tell Them](#) - Al Franken
54. [Lies My Teacher Told Me](#) - James Loewen
55. [The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism](#) by Andrew Bacevich (2009)
56. [Living History](#) - Hillary Clinton
57. [Man of the House](#) - Tip O'Neill
58. [Managing the President's Program: Presidential Leadership and Legislative Policy Formulation](#) - Andrew Rudalevige
59. [The Manship School Guide to Political Communication](#)- David D. Perlmutter
60. [Mass Media and American Politics](#) – Doris A. Graber
61. [The Meaning of Is: The Squandered Impeachment of William Jefferson Clinton](#) – Bob Barr
62. [Means of Ascent](#) - Robert Caro (LBJ's rise to power)
63. [Men in Black: How the Supreme Court Is Destroying America](#) - Mark R. Levin (2006)
64. [A Mormon in the White House?: 10 Things Every American Should Know about Mitt Romney](#) - Hugh Hewitt
65. [The Natural; the misunderstood presidency of Bill Clinton](#) - Joe Klein
66. [The New Media Monopoly](#) by Ben H. Bagdikian (2004)
67. [The Nine](#) – Jeffrey Tooban (the Supreme Court)
68. [No Fault Politics: Modern Presidents, The Press, and Reformers](#) - Eugene McCarthy
69. [Off With Their Heads](#) - Dick Morris
70. [On the Campaign Trail: The Long Road of Presidential Politics, 1860-2004](#) by Douglas E. Schoen
71. [The Paradox of American Democracy](#) - John Judas
72. [Parliament of Whores](#) - P.J. O'Rourke (a humorous account of how the government works)
73. [Party Polarization in Congress](#) by Sean M. Theriault (2008)
74. [Political Ambition](#) - Linda Fowler and Robert McClure (study of the recruitment of congressional candidates)
75. [The Political Bestiary](#) - Eugene McCarthy
76. [**The Political Brain**](#) – Drew Westen (Also AP Psych)

77. Politics in the Clinton Years - Molly Ivins
78. The Politics of Rich and Poor - Kevin Phillips
79. The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to Bill Clinton - Stephen Skowronek
80. Power Plays - Dick Morris
81. The Presidency of James Earl Carter - B.T. Kaufman
82. Presidential Ambition: How the presidents gained power, kept power, and got things done - Richard Shenkman
83. Primary Colors -Anonymous (actually Joe Klein)
84. The Prince (Bantam Classics) - Niccolo Machiavelli
85. Presidential Elections: Strategies and Structures of American Politics (Presidential Elections) - David Hopkins, Nelson W. Polsby, and Aaron Wildavsky
86. Readings in Presidential Politics - George Edwards
87. Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State: Why Americans Vote the Way They Do by Andrew Gelman (2009)
88. Republican Gomorrah: Inside the Movement that Shattered the Party by Max Blumenthal (2009)
89. Rewiring Politics: Presidential Nominating Conventions in the Media Age (Media and Public Affairs) - Costas Panagopoulos
90. The Road to the White House, 2000: The Politics of Presidential Elections, The Post Election Edition - Stephen J. Wayne
91. Rogue Nation - Clyde Prestowitz
92. Ronald Reagan - Dinesh D'Souza
93. Ronald Reagan: The Role of a Lifetime - Joe Cannon
94. Running on Empty: How the Democratic and Republican Parties Are Bankrupting Our Future and What Americans Can Do About It by Peter G. Peterson (2005)
95. Running on Race: Racial Politics in Presidential Campaigns 1960-2000 - Jeremy D. Mayer
96. Shadow - Bob Woodward
97. The Shadow Party: How George Soros, Hillary Clinton, and Sixties Radicals Seized Control of the Democratic Party by David Horowitz and Richard Poe (2007)
98. Showdown at Gucci Gulch - Jeffrey Birnbaum and Alan Murray
99. Spin Cycle - Howard Kurtz (the art of "spin" revealed)
100. Spin This - Bill Press
101. Stickin: The Case for Loyalty - James Carville
102. Take It Back: A Battle Plan for Democratic Victory by James Carville and Paul Begala
103. Thank You for the Memories Mr. President - Helen Thomas
104. Three Cups of Tea – Greg Mortenson
105. The Uprising – David Sirota
106. The Way Things Ought to Be - Rush Limbaugh (We're Right, They're Wrong but from a conservative perspective)
107. We the Students - Dr. Jamin Raskin
108. We're Right, They're Wrong - James Carville (The Way Things Ought to Be but from a liberal perspective)
109. What It Means to Be a Libertarian by Charles A Murray (1997)
110. What Went Wrong - Bernard Lewis
111. Whatever it Takes: The Real Struggle for Political Power in America - Elizabeth Drew
112. Why Americans Hate Politics - F.J. Dionne
113. Why Women Should Rule the World – DeeDee Myers
114. Wingnuts: How the Lunatic Fringe is Hijacking America by John Avlon and Tina Brown (2010)
115. Winning the Future: A 21st Century Contract with America - Newt Gingrich

You may also choose to read any political book published since 2000 or a biography of any recent (since 1960) president or "prominent" American politician.

Book Report Instructions

Your book summary should be approximately 750-1000 words in length, word processed, and should include the following:

1. A basic bibliographical citation --- author, title, place and date of publication at the top of the first (title) page.
2. A brief identification of the AUTHOR(S), which might include answers to the following: When/where born? Where/how educated? Special expertise or qualifications to write about this subject? Present position?
3. A SUMMARY of the book's contents and a description of its general scope and nature; also a brief identification of the book's major themes, content and conclusion. Points covered might include:
 - a) Subject matter covered
 - b) Author's purpose: what is he/she trying to do?
 - c) Period of time covered?
 - d) Topics/issues emphasized?
 - e) Supporting evidence presented
 - f) Organization?
 - g) Is the book historical/political/social/economic/biographical?
 - h) What did the book teach you about how the "game" of politics is played?
4. Outline notes are to be stapled to the back of the report. Outline notes need not be typed.
5. A CRITICAL EVALUATION / reflection, which might include:
 - a) Strengths or weaknesses of the book?
 - b) Were the sources presented by the author primary or secondary?
 - c) Was the author balanced, objective or biased?
 - d) Charts/illustrations used?
 - e) Literary style?