



Ocean City High School Summer Assignment 2022

Course	A.P. Government and Politics	Teacher	K. Smith
Email	Ksmith@ocsdnj.org	Due Date	1 st day of class
Standards			
Topic	The Constitution and Founding Principles of American Government		
Purpose	Introduction to course material, foundational knowledge		
Text/Novel(s) & Brief Description	Internet research is appropriate		
Approximate Time on Task	3-4 hours		
Suggested Timeline			
How It Will Be Assessed	As a 50-point grade for the 1 st marking period, with a follow-up quiz early in the school year		

A.P. Government and Politics
K. Smith
Introductory Worksheet – the Constitution

NAME: _____

There are two summer assignments that will be required for candidates of the A.P. Government and Politics course:

1. All students should complete the questions listed below. The assignment must be hand-written (typed work will not be accepted) and is due on the first day of class.
2. All students should study for a quiz on the Constitution which will be held the first week of school. Pay particular attention to Articles I-III and the Bill of Rights.

Please submit hand-written responses in paragraph form to the following questions. The worksheet is due the first day of school and counts as a 100 point grade.

1. What were the Articles of Confederation? List some of the features of the Articles as a system of government.
2. Explain some of the philosophical differences between the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists.
3. Why was the Constitution ratified to replace the Articles of Confederation? Explain the weaknesses of the Articles that led to the drafting of the Constitution.
4. Explain Article I of the Constitution and the powers therein.
5. Explain Article II of the Constitution and the powers therein.
6. Explain Article III of the Constitution and the powers therein.
7. What is the Bill of Rights and why was it drafted?
8. List each of the Bill of Rights and explain the purpose and function of each.
9. Why is the First Amendment sometimes controversial? What conflicts would seem to exist in its nature?
10. Explain the concept of “probable cause” as it relates to the Fourth Amendment. How has “probable cause” expanded since 9/11?

11. Is the death penalty a violation of the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment? Explain your opinion.
12. What must take place in order for the Constitution to be amended? Why have there been so few Amendments throughout our history?
13. Look at the Amendments to the Constitution since the Bill of Rights was passed. Which do you find to be the most important or influential? Explain your answer.
14. What are some things the Democratic party believes in? What issues do they promote?
15. What are some things the Republican party believes in? What issues do they promote?
16. How do Democrats and Republicans differ in their beliefs about the role of government? Explain.
17. As of the time this assignment is being created (early June), the Supreme Court seems poised to bring an end to *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 decision that granted women the right to an abortion. What are your thoughts on this? Should this right be protected? Why or why not? Use the Constitution to justify your answer, not a personal opinion.
18. As a policy exercise, consider the following: mass shootings take place far more frequently in America than anywhere else on earth. Many countries have banned private ownership of guns, or limited the types of guns citizens can own.

In America, the 2nd Amendment protects those rights. To what degree, though? Read the 2nd Amendment and offer your interpretation of it. To what degree do you think it allows for private ownership of handguns? In light of the mass shootings that plague our country, should we restrict access to guns? Why or why not? Explain your answer, incorporating the 2nd Amendment into your response.