

## AP Government

**Welcome to AP Government. Your summer assignment is to read the first two chapters of the government book by Wilson. Be ready to discuss them when we return to school in September. Below is a brief outline of the topics we will be studying next years. Have a great summer, see you in the fall!**

### AP Government and Politics

Constitutional Underpinnings:

- The political and economic circumstances of the time of the framing of the Constitution
- The motivation of the framers
- The weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation
- The strengths of the Constitution
- Separation of powers
- The nature and political impact of federalism
- Principles of democratic government
- System of Checks and Balances

Political beliefs and behaviors:

- The ideological beliefs people maintain about their government
- Political socialization
- Public opinion and its impact on policy
- How and why citizens vote as they do
- The methods of political participation
- The reasons citizens disagree over political beliefs and behavior

Parties, Interest Groups, and the Media:

- What parties do
- How they operate
- How they are organized
- How they link citizens to government
- How they help make and use the rules of elections
- How electoral laws affect the outcome of elections
- What interest groups do and what makes them effective
- The role of PAC's and their impact on the political process
- The types of mass Media
- The purpose of the media
- The impact of the media on the political agenda

The Institutions of Government:

- The structure and function of the legislature
- The structure and function of the executive
- The structure and function of the judiciary
- The structure and political interrelationship of the institutions of government
- The connections among the national government, citizens, political parties, interest groups, and the states

Public Policy:

- The process of making public policy
- Citizen participation in policy making
- The interactions among Congress, the courts, and bureaucracy on policy making
- The impact of elections in policy making
- The participants in domestic and economic policy making
- The limitations of domestic and economic policy making

Civil Rights And Liberties:

- Substantive and procedural rights and liberties
- The impact of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment on rights and liberties
- The consequences of judicial interpretation on rights and liberties