

AP US Government and Politics
Summer 2020 Assignment
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You're taking this course at the best possible time during the four-year political cycle: a presidential election year. We'll be taking a deep dive into the process, learning a ton about how we select our political leaders. But there will be plenty of time to do that beginning in early September.

We are all in uncharted territory here in the midst of the greatest health crisis of our lives. You may have parents out of work, someone in your family might be suffering from COVID-19, or other issues might have arisen that have nothing to do with the pandemic. For those reasons I'm not going to give you a heavy assignment for this class over the summer.

However, I am going to want you to pay attention to the news. In particular I want you to look at the ongoing conflict between the national and state governments over issues related to medical care, shutdowns, and reopening. Be discriminating about what news sources you lean on for information.

Please respond to the following three prompts. Each response should be 150-250 words:

1. In what ways are our different levels of government in conflict with each other? How are they working together? What level of government do you think should be most responsible for making decisions during a crisis like the one we are facing?
2. What constitutes a credible news source? How can we tell good journalism from bad journalism? What steps can we take to make sure we don't fall prey to bias and conspiracy theories?
3. Tell me about yourself. What are you hoping to get out of being in this class?

The assignment will be due the first Monday of the school year, whatever that happens to be this fall.