

A.P. GOVERNMENT - SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2011-12

Students,

The assignment below has four components: a same sex marriage paper, a medical marijuana paper, a healthcare paper, and *The New York Times* editorials.

Each component has two parts. Part I of each of the three current issues sections (same-sex marriage, medical marijuana, healthcare) may not exceed two pages per topic. Your responses should be delineated by letter: "A," "B," etc. You must complete all aspects of all components of this assignment. Please email me with any questions. I'm looking forward to a great year in A. P. Gov.!!

SUBMISSION: All work should be done in Word and emailed to me on or before August 26th. Your work should be in two Word documents. The first document should be entitled: "AP Gov current issues last name." Second document should be entitled: "AP Gov NYTimes articles last name."

So, before August 27th I should receive an email from all of you with two Word documents attached.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE:

Part I:

Write a typed response (two page max) addressing the current debate over same sex marriage laws. You should include a list of works cited, and your response should include the following:

a) A profile of three current approaches taken by various states: I.) No legal protection extended to same-sex couples. II.) Identical marriage licenses given to both same-sex and opposite-sex couples. III.) Civil unions. Explain each scenario and list two states which currently employ each approach.

b) An explanation of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) which includes an examination of the Constitutionality of this law. The 14th Amendment, The Full Faith and Credit Clause and the Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia* should be mentioned during this portion of your paper.

c) A passionate, detailed and persuasive essay arguing for what both NJ and the federal government's legal position on this matter should be. Your proposal should be logical and should anticipate and account for likely opposing arguments.

d) Also be sure to address: Republican-Democratic positions, President Obama's stance on this issue, whether or not the issue is headed to the Supreme Court, and where public opinion currently rests on this issue.

Part II:

a) Find an editorial on this topic that you like and somewhat agree with and one that you dislike and somewhat disagree with. Summarize the two essays and also comment on why you either liked or disliked each essay. Both the Drudge Report - www.drudgereport.com and <http://www.huffingtonpost.com> have dozens of columnists listed on the bottom portion of their opening pages. Their opinionated essays are free and indexed chronologically. Copy the articles you select and paste them into Word. Most articles allow you to select “print” on the article which formats it into more of a text friendly document. By selecting this option, it will paste into Word more easily. Your name should appear at the top of EVERY page you submit.

MEDICAL-MARIJUANA:

Part I:

Write a typed response (two page max) addressing the current debate over medical marijuana. You should include a list of works cited, and your response should include the following:

More than a dozen states have legalized medical marijuana. The federal government continues to prohibit its use.

- a) Is it Constitutional for state and federal laws to contradict each other?
- b) What provision of the Constitution requires such laws to be consistent?
- c) How has President Obama responded to this issue?
- d) A passionate and persuasive essay arguing for what the federal government’s legal position should be regarding this conflict.

Part II:

a) Find an editorial on this topic that you like and somewhat agree with and one that you dislike and somewhat disagree with. Summarize the two essays and also comment on why you either liked or disliked each essay. Both the Drudge Report - www.drudgereport.com and <http://www.huffingtonpost.com> have dozens of columnists listed on the bottom portion of their opening pages. Their opinionated essays are free and indexed chronologically. Copy the articles you select and paste them into Word. Most articles allow you to select “print” on the article which formats it into more of a text friendly document. By selecting this option, it will paste into Word more easily. Your name should appear at the top of EVERY page you submit.

HEALTHCARE:

Write a typed response (two page max) addressing the current debate over President Obama's healthcare program (PPACA). You should include a list of works cited, and your response should include the following:

- a) Describe the main provisions of PPACA – in your own words.
- b) How has this measure fared in state and federal courts?
- c) Do you believe the legislation is Constitutional? Why/why not?

Part II:

a) Find an editorial on this topic that you like and somewhat agree with and one that you dislike and somewhat disagree with. Summarize the two essays and also comment on why you either liked or disliked each essay. Both the Drudge Report - www.drudgereport.com and <http://www.huffingtonpost.com> have dozens of columnists listed on the bottom portion of their opening pages. Their opinionated essays are free and indexed chronologically. Copy the articles you select and paste them into Word. Most articles allow you to select “print” on the article which formats it into more of a text friendly document. By selecting this option, it will paste into Word more easily. Your name should appear at the top of EVERY page you submit.

NEW YORK TIMES – EDITORIALS:

Go to The New York Times free web site: www.nytimes.com Select “OPINION” on the left hand side. During any **two of the first three** (8/7, 8/14, 8/21) Sundays in August read the first two editorials (there are usually three or four).

Part I: Summarize the main point and the editor's opinion presented in all four essays (two editorials from two different Sundays.) Indicate the **title and date** of the essay you are summarizing. You do not need to print the editorial.

Part II: Then write a concise letter to the editor responding to one of these editorials. If you would like to take a shot at extra credit and international notoriety – submit your letter for publication! If it gets published you will get considerable extra credit! View letters which get published from readers for an example of length and tone.

*Your summary of the four editorials you read should be a page or so long.

* **Any questions - contact me at: scampbell@hpregonal.org**

