

Ms. Parr

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics
2009-2010 Summer Assignment

Data Collection

1. In this course we will examine the political theory and everyday practices that direct daily governmental operations and determine public policies. Particular attention is given to the Executive, Congressional and Judicial functions of the federal government
2. You are to find three news stories about each of these government branches over the summer, for a total of nine stories altogether.
3. Stories may be from the internet, magazines, or newspapers from anywhere in the world. You may NOT summarize a story you heard on television.
4. No two stories about the same branch of government can come from the same week. This means that you have to find stories from at least three different weeks between now and the start of school.
5. In addition, you are to complete the “Landmark Cases” chart included in this document. Information from this chart will provide a framework with which to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system.

Organization

1. Your stories must have been reported in the year 2009. It is fine if they come from earlier in the year.
2. Your stories must be arranged in chronological order of reporting and by nation.
2. All stories should include a date, a headline, and a source.

Discussion

1. You do not have to write anything for these stories—there are no summaries required.
2. You do have to have a passing knowledge about what has been going on in each branch for the last several months.
3. You should be able to explain a general summary of your impressions of each branch in a graded class discussion.
4. These discussions will occur during the first week of school.
5. These articles are due the first day of class. (the first day of school)

The Top “Ten” Landmark Supreme Court Cases

More or less, in order of frequency of appearance on the AP exams.

www.oyez.org is a great resource for this assignment

Case	Date	Summary and Significance
Marbury v. Madison		
McCulloch v Maryland		
Plessy v Ferguson		
Brown v Board		
Gitlow v Wainwright		
Mapp v Ohio		

Gideon v Wainwright		
Miranda v Arizona		
California v Bakke		
Roe v Wade		