AP GoPo SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Part 1: It is essential in the AP US Government and Politics course to understand the foundation of our system of government, the US Constitution. Thus, your assignment is to create a personalized annotated outline of the entire US Constitution (preamble, article and amendments).

Requirements:

1. Read and comprehend the entire US Constitution. You should be able to rewrite the Constitution in your own words.
2. Create a hand-written annotated outline of the entire US Constitution (see example below for how to begin)
    a. Annotate so you understand what each component of the Constitution means in modern day terms, what changes have been made over time and how the Constitution is applied today.
    b. Annotations should be in your own words and voice, not the voice of the Framers (or any expert or "expert" found through Google—it is vital to make sense of the text through your own perspective and understanding.
3. You need to understand the Constitution in detail and not simply the main ideas, you also need to be able to locate the principles by Article, section, and clause. (For Example: the ability to determine the time and place of elections is determined by the states. This is in Article I, section 4, clause 1).

Note: There will be an exam on the entire Constitution the first week of school. You may ONLY use the **handwritten outline** that you created.

Example:

I. Preamble--your translation of what all those goals actually mean (own words)
II. Articles--explain what they do (in your own words)
    A. Article I: Legislative Branch--what is it? (in own words)
        i. Section 1: Congress—explain what it is and what function this section provides (in own words)
        ii. Section 2: House of Representatives-- explain what it is and what function this section provides (in own words)
            a. Clause1: Elections-- explain what it is and what function this section provides (in own words)
            b. Clause 2: Qualification-- explain what it is and what function this section provides (in own words)

    Etc. through the very last amendment

Part 2: Another important aspect of this class is making connections between course material and current events. Start following U.S. government and politics-related news stories. Look for daily news stories that portray the national government in action and highlight the issues/crises it must deal with everyday. Especially focus on stories that discuss Congress, the Presidency,

Federal agencies, and the Supreme Court. You can also follow stories that involve national elections, politics, and politicians. Do not limit your newly-formed current events habit to just one publication or even type of media -- vary your sources by reading major national newspapers online (*New York Times, Washington Post, etc.),* politically focused web-only publications (*Politico*, etc.), any national news program on major TV networks (CBS, ABC, NBC, FOX), the Sunday morning "interview" shows (*Meet the Press, Face the Nation*) and the specialized 24/7 news channels (Fox News Channel, CNN, or MSNBC). Being able to discuss "real world" current events will greatly enhance your understanding of the theoretical concepts in this course.

While the U.S. Constitution may be almost 227 years old, dust is far from gathering on this document -- it influences our lives on a daily basis. As a result, it is enormously important to have a solid and thorough understanding of the actual content of the U.S. Constitution. However, that is not enough. You must also be able to understand *how* the document is reflected in our political system in the 21st century. Part 2 requires no formal work to be handed in.

You will be assessed in your class through a variety of ways when school resumes in August.