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**READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT BEFORE COMPLETING ANY SUMMER WORK**

**Course Overview:**
AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments.

**An AP Government student should exhibit the following behaviors to find success in AP Government:**
* an interest in history and politics
* ability to comprehend a wealth of course content
* strong reading and writing skills
* a willingness to learn independently
* a strong work ethic
* comfort discussing ideas openly with others
* a desire to take an active role in the political process

**Other Considerations:**
* Students that have taken and excelled in APUSH are at an advantage in this course as some of the content overlaps.

**The Project Requirement:**
Students taking AP U.S. Government and Politics are required to complete a political science research or applied civics project. The required project adds a civic component to the course, engaging students in exploring how they can affect, and are affected by, government and politics throughout their lives. The project might have students collect data on a teacher-approved political science topic, participate in a community service activity, or observe and report on the policymaking process of a governing body.

**Summer Assignment**
The summer assignment is the first step in getting you prepared to ultimately satisfy the project requirement for this course. You will have an opportunity to begin “exploring how [you] can affect” the political system by learning from others that have done so themselves. **You will be conducting an interview of an individual that has worked to bring about political change in some capacity.** Criteria for your interview are below:

**What type of person can I interview?**
Your interviewee may be a current or former government official, work for a political organization or any citizen that has dedicated their time and efforts towards bringing about political change (big or small). They may have or currently work nationally, statewide or locally. Please avoid interviewing someone you already know well. (Sorry Moms and Dads)

**How do I find someone to interview?**
It is suggested that you identify an area that interests you politically. Perhaps you are interested in local politics and want to reach out to someone in your town that has been a member of the Town Council or Board of Education. You might widen your scope to interview someone that works for an interest group or within the political media. Maybe you go big and try to secure an interview with a national figure that you have seen or heard. Most importantly, find someone that is willing to share their experiences.
How do I initiate contact with my interviewee?
Make a call, send an e-mail or stop by their office. Keep in mind that how you initially contact someone can singlehandedly determine whether they are going to give you their time. Plan out this first contact so that it is respectful and professional in nature. Your contact should not end in a restraining order or handcuffs.

What types of questions should I ask during my interview?
You are responsible for developing a set of questions that will provide insight into your interviewee’s political motivations, actions and impact. You are expected to do some research on your interviewee, their role and/or their organization before the interview. Having some background will help you craft relevant questions and elicit useful responses.

How do I conduct my interview?
It is recommended that you conduct your interview in person. You may also conduct your interview over the phone if transportation is an issue. You should record the audio (or video) of your interview so that it can be transcribed in a Google Doc. Please tell your interviewee they are being recorded. Every question and response should be transcribed. It is strongly suggested that you provide your interviewee with a “thank you” note at the end of the interview.

How can I prove to my teacher that I prepared adequately and executed my interview?
1. Each student should join the “AP Government (2019-2020)” Google Classroom with the code: ge3qfg.

2. Access the “Interview Sign Up Sheet” in Classroom. Only after you have confirmed your interview, please enter your name, the name of your interviewee, date you confirmed the interview and the projected date of the interview. Complete this by 7/31/19, 11:59 p.m.

3. Submit an “Interview Prep” Google Doc in Classroom by 11:59 p.m., 8/7/19 that includes the following information:
   * your name
   * your interviewee’s name and title
   * the approximate date of your interview
   * a 1 paragraph explanation of why you chose to interview this person
   * the questions you plan to ask

3. Submit a “Completed Interview” Google Doc in Classroom by 11:59 p.m., 8/25/19 that includes the following information:
   * your name
   * your interviewee’s name and title
   * the exact date and time of your interview
   * the location of your interview
   * a complete transcript of all questions asked and responses given
   * Please ask at least 3 follow-up questions during your interview based on what your interviewee says. Record them in your transcript and highlight them so they are easily identifiable.

4. Prepare a 4-5 minute presentation for the first day of class that details the following:
   * your name
   * your interviewee’s name and title
   * why you chose your interviewee
   * how the interview was conducted
   * the 3 most interesting understandings of the political process you learned from your interview
   * how your interview has impacted you

*Prepare your remarks so they fit within the time constraints listed above. It is the hope that each student will have an opportunity to share their experience either the first or second day of school. That will not be possible if students exceed the time constraints. You may utilize notecards, but please no visuals.
How will my efforts be reflected in PowerSchool?
*“Interview Prep” submission: 4 point “Assignment FOR Learning”
*“Completed Interview” submission: 8 point “Assignment FOR Learning”
*Presentation: 6 point “Assignment FOR Learning” (evaluated on comprehensiveness and presence)
  *Comprehensiveness (4 points): Did I address all the details I was asked to address?
  *Presence (2 points): Did I deliver an engaging presentation, holding my audience’s interest?

What happens if I miss a deadline?
You will not receive credit for your work. Pay close attention to each deadline.

What do I do if I have questions about my summer assignment?
Directly e-mail Mr. Sepko (jsepko@npsct.org). Do not send him a message via the high school webpage. It only works sometimes.

What else could I do this summer to get ready for AP U.S. Government and Politics?
*Browse through the College Board website for this course to gain a better sense of what it entails: http://bit.ly/2y9CFGH

*Interject some political news into your social media feeds (Ex. follow the NY Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Washington Times, credible journalists, influential political leaders, etc.) The more up to date you are on current events, the better you will do in this course. Students that choose to remain oblivious to current political events will have a difficult time making connections to course content.

*Check out the Khan Academy page for the course

*Purchase either the Princeton Review or Barron’s exam prep book

*Enjoy your summer.