

# AP US Government and Politics Student/Parent Agreement

**Please remove this page from the packet and return it to your eighth grade social studies teacher by Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**

Please sign below if you agree to the following:

Student:

- I intend to enroll/have enrolled in AP US Government and Politics.
- I will complete the admission essay (two paragraphs typed) and submit it to my eighth grade social studies teacher before Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Student name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent:

- My student plans on enrolling in AP US Government and Politics for the 2017-2018 school year.
- I understand that if the student does not submit the admission essay before the date above, she or he will not be awarded admission to the class.
- I understand that if space is limited in the class, the admission essays will be ranked by adherence to the prompt given and seats will be awarded accordingly.

Parent name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Advanced Placement US Government and Politics

### Admission Assignment due to Eighth Grade Social Studies Teacher by 3:00pm on Tuesday, May 9th

Greetings,

I am happy to offer you a unique opportunity. For the 2017-2018 school year, Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics will be offered to incoming freshmen. The goal of this course is to prepare each student to take, and pass, the AP US Government and Politics Exam in May of 2018.

The Advanced Placement Program is a cooperative program between secondary schools and colleges/universities sponsored by the College Board. It gives high school students exposure to college-level material through involvement in an AP course, and then allows them to show what they have learned by taking an AP exam at the end of that school year. **Colleges and universities then grant college credit, placement, or both to these students depending upon the student's score on the exam.** Passing scores will receive credit at over 1,000 universities and colleges including University of Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University, Berea College, Somerset Community College, Morehead University, and University of Louisville.

This course will be more difficult than the classes you are taking in middle school. Commitment from the student is a must. Moreover, I will be available for tutoring almost every day after school. However, you must be prepared to read, study, and do research, with reading and homework **roughly three nights a week**. In addition, there will be 2-3 in-class historical essays each six weeks. Also, keeping an interactive binder is a requirement. You will use this for class notes, to "process" assignments, and to keep other activities that will prepare you for the exam.

Admission to the course will be competitive. There are a limited number of seats in the class. **Admission to the class will be determined based on student responses to attached written assignment.** This assignment will be ranked and seats will be awarded to the students with the best-written and most thoughtful responses. It is wise to revise your responses thoroughly before submitting them to your eighth-grade social studies teacher.

Please feel free to contact me at any time via email or phone with any cares or concerns you may have. I would like to speak personally with every student who is considering taking the course.

Also, be sure to share this information with your parents and talk with them about what choice they think is best for you.

I strongly believe you will learn valuable skills that will not only help with college course work, but will also enhance your ability to communicate throughout life. I hope that you will take this letter as a challenge to prove to yourself and others your skills and dedication as a student. I am very excited about this coming school year and look forward to working with each of you.

**Please find some more helpful statistics and further information on the back of this page.**

Finally, I'll leave you with a quote from JFK about his goal to put a man on the moon,

"We choose to go...not because [it is] easy, but because [it is] hard, because that goal will serve to measure and organize the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win."

Mr. James Herbie Brock

AP United States Government and Politics Teacher

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Feel free to call or email me any time with questions, specifically if you are not sure if your child should take the class.

## Statistics:

There are numerous benefits to taking AP courses in high school. Below are some of the most recent statistics that prove that students enrolled in AP classes have a higher chance of graduating for college, feel more prepared for college and earn higher GPAs as first-year students.

Likelihood of Graduating College				
	Number	Took AP course and passed an AP Exam in HS	Took AP course but did not pass AP Exam	Did not take AP course
Total	78,079	57%	37%	17%

Felt Prepared for College Academically				
	Number	Took AP course and passed an AP Exam in HS	Took AP course but did not pass AP Exam	Did Not Take AP Exam
Total	47,647	95%	79%	50%

### Average 1st Year GPA

	Number	Took AP course and passed an AP Exam in HS	Took AP course but did not pass AP Exam	Did Not Take AP Exam
Total	37,004	3.11	2.72	2.35

## Benefits of taking an AP Course:

- College credit means you don't have to take the class in college
- College credit means you don't have to pay for the class in college
- Students in AP courses tend to take class more seriously
- Good scores on AP exams can influence colleges to accept you
- Good scores on AP exams can influence colleges and other institutions to give you scholarships
- AP courses are more in-depth, leading you to learn more and understand class-work more thoroughly

## Questions to Ask Yourself:

Below is a list of questions that you should ask yourself before committing to AP US Government and Politics. I have provided them as an opportunity for you to better understand what kind of student takes an AP course. AP GOPO is a very intensive course with regular homework and high standards. If you answer "no" to any of these questions, consider talking with Mr. Brock or your parents about the pros and cons of taking an AP course.

- Do I plan on attending a four-year college?
- Do I plan on earning scholarships for college?
- Do I want to become a better student?
- Will I become a better student by working hard?
- Do I want to be challenged? Are regular classes often boring?
- Do I like joining and leading class discussions?
- Do I enjoy learning about history and social studies?
- Am I a good writer?
- Do I enjoy reading?
- Do I have good problem solving skills?
- Do I have enough time to dedicate an hour each night to study?

Assignment Due Before Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> to your eighth grade social studies teacher

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Staple this sheet to the front of your response when you submit it to your social studies teacher BEFORE TUESDAY, MAY 9TH**

Briefly research each of the court cases listed below using oyez.org. As you research, jot down the facts of each case and rank them from most important to least important. Once your research is finished, choose the two cases that you ranked as most important and answer the following questions for TWO of the cases IN YOUR OWN WORDS. Each **case** requires a paragraph-long response. Copied and pasted or retyped responses from the Internet will not be accepted and will result in a loss of admission to the course.

**\*a one to two sentence response to each question (in paragraph form) is sufficient**

1. **What events occurred to bring the case to the Supreme Court? In other words, what happened in the case?**
2. **What constitutional question was being addressed in the case? In other words, what part of the US Constitution was being challenged? (simply restating what is listed under "Question" on oyez.org is not adequate here)**
3. **What was the finding of the case? (simply restating what is listed under "Conclusion" on oyez.org is not adequate here)**
4. **Why should this case be studied by students in AP GOPO in 2017?**

Additionally, each response should be:

- between 200 and 400 words in length (this includes responses for two cases, so 100 to 200 words are allotted for each case)
- free of personal pronouns such as 'you', 'I', 'me', and 'we'
  - For example, instead of writing "I believe that Korematsu v. US should be studied in 2017 because....", you should write "Korematsu v. US should be studied in 2017 because..."
- in 12 point Times New Roman font
- double-spaced
- revised and free of grammatical, spelling, or formatting errors
- typed using Microsoft Word or WordPad and printed
- stapled to this page and turned in to your social studies teacher by 3:00pm on **Tuesday, May 9th**

Supreme Court Case List (Remember that you must research all cases, but must only write about and submit your responses to the questions for the two you ranked as most important.)

New York Times v. Sullivan  
Korematsu v. US  
Engle v. Vitale  
Texas v. Johnson  
Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas