

## **AP Government Summer Reading Assignment**

As a part of the AP U.S. Government and Politics course you are required to write two book reports. You are to take rough outline notes as you read the books (which are to be attached to your reports).

1. Choose any two books from the list below.
2. Check to see if the books listed below are available in a library before buying them.
3. Refer to the instructions for directions.

### READING LIST

The 15 Biggest Lies About Politics - Major Garret

48 Laws of Power - Robert Greene (how to be "powerful")

All Politics is Local - Tip O'Neill (the former Speaker tells us the tricks of the political game)

All too Human - George Stephanopolous (a controversial "tell all" by President Clinton's former top advisor)

The Art of Political War - David Horowitz (So, you want to win an election? Here's how.)

Bare Knuckles and Back Rooms: My Life in American Politics - Ed Rollins

The Best Democracy Money Can Buy - Greg Pallast

Bowling Alone - Robert Putnam

Blinded by the Right - David Brock

The Buying of the Congress - Charles Lewis (how access and influence is "purchased" in Washington)

The Buying of the President 2000 - Charles Lewis

A Call to Revolution - Martin L. Gross (an expose of how our tax dollars are squandered in Washington)

Closed Chambers - Edward Lazarus (how the U.S. Supreme Court really operates)

The Coldest War - James Brady

The Corruption of American Politics: What Went Wrong and Why - Elizabeth Drew

The Courage of Their Convictions - Peter Irons (key "freedom of expression" cases)

The Cousins' Wars; Religion, Politics and the Triumph of Anglo-America - Kevin Phillips

Dead Center: Clinton-Gore Leadership and the Perils of Moderation - Burns and Sorensen

Eat the Rich: A Treatise on Economics - P. J. O'Rourke

The Enemy Within: Saving America from the Liberal Assault on Our Schools, Faith, and Military - Michael Savage

Everything You Think You Know About Politics and Why You Are Wrong - Kathleen Jameson

Eyewitness to Power - David Gergen

Flawed Giant - Robert Dalik (a behind the scenes look at LBJ, "the supreme manipulator", in action)

Foxes in the Henhouse: How the Republicans Stole the South and the Heartland and What the Democrats Must Do to Run 'em Out by Steve Jarding, Dave "Mudcat" Saunders, and Bob Kerrey

Free Speech for Me, But not for Thee - Nat Hentoff

Front Row at the White House - Helen Thomas

The Future of Freedom - Fareed Sakaria

Gideon's Trumpet - Anthony Lewis (the story behind the famous Gideon v. Wainwright case)

Hail to the Chief - Robert Dalik

Hats in the Ring - Brad Chapinsky

Hell Fire Nation: The Politics of Sin in American History - James Morone

Hill Rat: Blowing the Lid Off Congress by John L. Jackley

Hillary Rodham Clinton: A First Lady for our Time - Donnie Radcliffe

How to Run for Local Office : A Complete, Step-By-Step Guide that Will Take You Through the Entire Process of Running and Winning a Local Election by Robert J. Thomas

How Women Legislate - Sue Thomas

In Defense of Government: The Fall and Rise of Public Trust - Jacob Weisberg

Karl Rove : Bush's Brain - James Moore and Wayne Slater

Lies and the Lying Liars That Tell Them - Al Franken

Lies My Teacher Told Me - James Loewen

Living History - Hillary Clinton

Man of the House - Tip O'Neill (former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill's autobiography)

Managing the President's Program: Presidential Leadership and Legislative Policy Formulation (Princeton Studies in American Politics) - Andrew Rudalevige

The Manship School Guide to Political Communication- David D. Perlmutter

Mass Media and American Politics – Doris A. Graber

Means of Ascent - Robert Caro (another look at LBJ, this time dealing with his dubious rise to power)

Men in Black: How the Supreme Court Is Destroying America - Mark R. Levin

A Mormon in the White House?: 10 Things Every American Should Know about Mitt Romney - Hugh Hewitt

The Natural: the misunderstood presidency of Bill Clinton - Joe Klein

The New Prince: Macciavelli in the 21st Century - Dick Morris

No Fault Politics: Modern Presidents, The Press, and Reformers - Eugene McCarthy

Off With Their Heads - Dick Morris

On the Campaign Trail: The Long Road of Presidential Politics, 1860-2004 by Douglas E. Schoen

The Paradox of American Democracy - John Judas

Parliament of Whores - P.J. O'Rourke (a humourous account of how the government works)

Political Ambition - Linda Fowler and Robert McClure

The Political Bestiary - Eugene McCarthy (former Senator McCarthy equates politicians with animals)

Politics in the Clinton Years - Molly Ivins

The Politics of Rich and Poor - Kevin Phillips

The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to Bill Clinton - Stephen Skowronek

Power Plays - Dick Morris

The Presidency of James Earl Carter - B.T. Kaufman

Presidential Ambition: How the presidents gained power, kept power, and got things done - Richard Shenkman

Primary Colors - Anonymous (actually Joe Klein)

The Prince (Bantam Classics) - Niccolo Machiavelli

Presidential Elections: Strategies and Structures of American Politics (Presidential Elections) - David Hopkins,  
Nelson W. Polsby, and Aaron Wildavsky

Readings in Presidential Politics - George Edwards

Rewiring Politics: Presidential Nominating Conventions in the Media Age (Media and Public Affairs) - Costas  
Panagopoulos

The Road to the White House, 2000: The Politics of Presidential Elections, The Post Election Edition - Stephen  
J. Wayne

Rogue Nation - Clyde Prestowitz

Ronald Reagan - Dinesh D'Souza (a book about Reagan the man)

Ronald Reagan: The Role of a Lifetime - Joe Cannon

Running on Race: Racial Politics in Presidential Campaigns 1960-2000 - Jeremy D. Mayer

Shadow - Bob Woodward (presidents and the media by one of the two journalists who broke Watergate).

Showdown at Gucci Gulch - Jeffrey Birnbaum and Alan Murray

Spin Cycle - Howard Kurtz (the art of "spin" revealed)

Spin This - Bill Press

Stickin: The Case for Loyalty - James Carville

Take It Back: A Battle Plan for Democratic Victory by James Carville and Paul Begala

Thank You for the Memories Mr. President - Helen Thomas

The Way Things Ought to Be - Rush Limbaugh (a similar theme to Carville's book (We're Right, They're  
Wrong) but from a conservative perspective)

We the Students - Dr. Jamin Raskin

We're Right, They're Wrong - James Carville (a similar theme to Limbaugh's book (The Way Things Ought to  
Be) but from a liberal perspective)

Winning the Future: A 21st Century Contract with America - Newt Gingrich

What Went Wrong - Bernard Lewis

Whatever it Takes: The Real Struggle for Political Power in America - Elizabeth Drew

Why Americans Hate Politics - F.J. Dionne

You may also choose to read any political book published since 2000 or a biography of any recent (since 1960) president or "prominent" American politician.

### **Book Report Instructions**

Each book report should be approximately 700-800 words in length and should include the following:

1. A basic bibliographical citation --- author, title, place and date of publication at the top of the first (title) page.

2. A brief identification of the AUTHOR(S), which might include answers to the following: When/where born ? Where/how educated ? Special expertise or qualifications to write about this subject ? Present position ?

3. A SUMMARY of the book's contents and a description of its general scope and nature; also a brief identification of the book's major themes, content and conclusion. Points covered might include:

a) Subject matter covered

b) Author's purpose: what is he/she trying to do ?

c) Period of time covered ?

d) Topics/issues emphasized ?

e) Supporting evidence presented

f) Organization ?

g) Is the book historical/political/social/economic/biographical ?

h) What did the book teach you about how the "game" of politics is played ?

4. Outline notes are to be stapled to the back of the report.

5. A CRITICAL EVALUATION, which might include:

a) Strengths or weaknesses of the book ?

b) Were the sources presented by the author primary or secondary?

c) Was the author balanced, objective or biased ?

d) Charts/illustrations used ?

e) Literary style ?