

Summer Reading

United States Government and Politics (Advanced Placement)
Mr. Caulfield

Textbook:

Wilson, James Q. and John J. DiIulio. *American Government*, Eighth Edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001.

Summer Reading Books*:

Hamilton, Lee H. *How Congress Works and Why You Should Care*. Indiana University Press, 2004.

Optional/Recommended Summer Reading*:

Woodward, Bob. *Plan of Attack*. Simon & Schuster; 2004.

Wright, Lawrence. *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9-11*. Knopf, 2006.

*Summer reading books can be purchased easily online or found/ordered at a local book store.

The Assignment: Due August 13

1. Legislative Branch: Read *How Congress Works and Why You Should Care* and answer the two essay questions below.
2. Essays: Write one three page essay on the following topics. Your essay must have a thesis statement explaining your overall argument. Your essay needs to be well constructed and should use specific examples to prove your claims. Because this is college level work, grammar, spelling and punctuation should be flawless. Essays need to be double-spaced in size 12 font with Times New Roman or Arial font. The first time you cite a source in a paper, please write in parenthesis the author's name and page number after the sentence; ex (Hamilton, 18) Subsequent citations from that same work only require the same page number; ex: (23).

Questions from How Congress Works:

1. What interests do Congressmen have to face when voting on a bill? Should Congressmen vote in the interests of the nation as a whole or represent the interests of their districts? What did the Founders intend?
2. Why is Congress historically so unpopular? Are these criticisms of Congress justified?