



## Ridgeway High School

### AP U.S. Government Summer Coursework

#### Summer Project: American Government Portfolio

**WELCOME STUDENTS AND PARENTS!** to the world of American Politics. This class is designed to challenge students to take a look behind the American government and understand its functions and responsibilities to the citizens of this nation and the role of each citizen. This class is designed to challenge students to open their minds to what has traditionally been the way the American Government conducts itself and discuss ways our government should change to adapt to our growing nation. The AP experience raises the standard for academic achievement here at Ridgeway High School. It ultimately sets the pace for a prosperous college experience. You have been deemed as a student of high standards, who is motivated and appreciates the open dialogue and exchange of ideas with the diverse members of AP U.S. Government community. I hope that you benefit from this challenging and rigorous educational experience that will help you gain credit or advanced placement towards the college of your choice. I look forward to taking this journey into the world of politics together. Have a great summer of reading and get ready to learn and enjoy doing it!

**Instructions.** Students will create an Interactive American Government Portfolio as a tool to assist them to understand the history and function of the American Government. This interactive portfolio will enhance the learning experience for the students as they prepare to research, discuss and critique our nation. The portfolio will include the following sections: Journal Writings, Summaries, Film Interpretations, Surveys, Photo Gallery and Key Questions. Please take the time to complete the portfolio requirements for class preparation and it will be used in the class throughout the year.

Please email me by **June 20, 2014** at [mrsashfordusgovernment@gmail.com](mailto:mrsashfordusgovernment@gmail.com). I want to create a group email for summer messages and upcoming school preparations.

**Portfolio Specifics:** 3in – 5in Binder (Preferably Black or White) with Dividers

All work in the binder should cover dates beginning with June 9, 2014 and ending on August 1, 2014. Portfolios will be presented to the class on the first day of school, Monday, August 4, 2014.

#### **Sections in Binder**

- Cover Page (Title: American Government Portfolio, Student Name, Class, Teacher, Date- August 4, 2014 and a picture of your choice)
- Student Information Sheet-see attachment and print off
- Divider Sections
  1. Journal Writings-  
Express your feelings and opinions in writing on 2-3 news stories a week (television or newspaper or magazines or online sources)

**Mrs. Ashford**

2. Summaries-  
Write a two paragraph summary on each of these historical documents listed: Articles of Confederation, Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, Emancipation Proclamation. Also, choose 3 out of the 25 Top Supreme Court Cases and write a summary of its significance to society.
3. Film Interpretations or Documentaries-  
Choose 2-3 films/documentaries off the list [or pick 3 of your own] below and write a one page interpretation of the political influences you witness as it relates to how the government works and how the people (citizens) were impacted by the influence of government policies.
4. Surveys-  
Create a 10 question survey on the views your family, friends, coworkers, church members, etc. have about the strengths and weaknesses of our government. Please email me a draft (for approval) before distributing to at least 10 people.
5. Picture and Symbol Collage-  
Choose or draw 10 pictures and symbols (from the internet, magazines, newspapers or personal drawings) on how you view the United States as a Nation. Please place a one word or two word caption under each picture to share out what the picture represents for you.
6. Key Questions-  
List questions you will create from all of your research for the portfolio and from the areas that interest you about the government.

If there are any questions concerning the portfolio or any of the assignments, please contact me via email address above. I am excited for the school year and I look forward to meeting each of you and exploring the world of politics.



### List of Documentaries and Films

Eyes on the Prize	I am a Man	JFK	Columbine
Sicko	Air Force One	Fahrenheit 911	Election Wag the Dog
Hurricane Katrina	Game Change	Butler	Glory Olympus has Fallen
All the King's Men	The American President	Dave	National Treasure
Enemy of the State			

**Mrs. Ashford**



## Student Information Card

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

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Class: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_



### Student Interest

What are your interests and/or hobbies? \_\_\_\_\_

What are your after high school plans? \_\_\_\_\_

What are your expectations for the class and from the teacher?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do you like the most and the least about the U.S.  
Government? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What teaching strategies would you like to see happen in class to assist you in  
understanding the material in class?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Overall statement: Express how you feel about our government: the good, the bad, the  
ugly.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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