

AP United States Government and Politics
Summer Current Events Assignment

For each of 5 entries, you will choose one hard news story from a *reputable* newspaper, magazine, or online news source. Search for quality reporting that is supported by evidence. Do not use editorials or opinion pieces.

After reading each article you will need to:

1. Cite the article's author, title, publication, date of article, and an Enduring Understanding (EU) that relates to the article. Sample citations and each EU are below.
2. Provide a brief description of the topic of the article and link it to an EU. Make sure to provide the exact wording of the EU in your response. Then, briefly elaborate on the connection of the article to the EU. **Do not link the article to more than 1 EU.**

You must complete 5 entries. Each entry must be an article from a different week.

This assignment is due on the first day of school. You will complete each entry in the same Google Doc.

The assignment is worth a total of 15 points with each entry being worth 3 points.

3pts =	brief summary of topic covered in article and an explanation providing a thorough, accurate, and clear connection to EU with no errors with MLA formatted citation
2.54pts =	brief summary of topic covered in article and an explanation providing an accurate connection to EU with minor errors with MLA formatted citation
2.1pts =	incomplete summary of topic covered in article and/or unclear or incorrect connection to EU's and/or no citation
0pts =	student did not complete

Sample citations:

Geraghty Jim. "James Comey's Stellar Windiness." *National Review*, 20 April 2018, EU: 3.

"An Appeals Court Just Thwarted Trump's Efforts to Punish Sanctuary Cities." *Mother Jones*, 19 April 2018, EU: 4.

Helpful websites: [AllSides](#)
[AP News](#)

Sample Response

Racker, Mini. "How Democrats Are Using Social Media Influencers to Get Out the Vote." *Time*,
1 November 2022. EU: 18.

The article "How Democrats Are Using Social Media Influencers to Get Out the Vote" describes the increased use of social media in influencing voters. Influencers on platforms such as TikTok have become messengers for political messages, this election cycle many of these messages have been promoting Democratic ideals. The increased spread of these messages is correlated with the increasing trust of content creators and the loss of trust in institutions promoting political parties. Political groups and campaigns use social media influencers to spread information and gain support through well-trafficked programs. Democrats such as President Joe Biden have even invited influencers to the Oval Office, such as when eight TikTok stars visited to meet Biden in October. The upcoming midterm election will be a test as to how much social media has influenced people to vote and which way on the political spectrum.

This article relates to EU 18, "PRD-3: The various forms of media provide citizens with political information and influence the ways in which they participate politically." This EU relates to the article because social media, including TikTok and other applications, use influencers and other motivators to sway voter opinions. Messages are being more widely shared on the internet, and as this happens, digital media will increasingly influence the way people participate politically. Currently, Democratic politicians are relying more heavily on influencing citizens and their political participation through the use of social media.

Enduring Understandings begin on the next page.

Unit 1 - Foundations of American Democracy

#	Original EU	Alternate Wording with Related Topics
1	CON-1: The Constitution emerged from the debate about the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation as a blueprint for limited government.	<p>The Constitution responded to problems within the Articles of Confederation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AoC could not raise taxes• AoC could not pay for an army• AoC gave no enforcement power to national government.
2	CON-2: Federalism reflects the dynamic distribution of power between national and state governments.	<p>Federalism is the idea that power is shared between national and state governments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both can raise taxes• National government controls immigration.• Democrats and Republicans debate the balance of power between state and national government.
3	LOR-1: A balance between governmental power and individual rights has been a hallmark of American political development.	<p>American politics is shaped by the struggle between individuals' rights and government control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil Rights• National Security• Bill of Rights
4	PMI-1: The Constitution created a competitive policy-making process to ensure the people's will is represented and that freedom is preserved.	<p>The Constitution created a policy-making process that protects the balance between freedom, civil liberties and government power..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Separation of powers• Checks and balances• Impeachment

Unit 2 - Interactions Among Branches of Government

#	Original EU	Alternate Wording with Related Topics
5	CON-3: The republican ideal in the U.S. is manifested in the structure and operation of the legislative branch.	<p>The republican ideal of representative government is incorporated into the structure of the bicameral Congress which is directly elected by the people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representation in the House is apportioned based on a state's population. • Representation in the Senate is based on equal representation among the states. • Both the House and Senate must pass identical legislation for it to move to the president for approval.
6	CON-4: The presidency has been enhanced beyond its expressed constitutional powers.	<p>Over time the powers of the Executive have been expanded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Orders • Executive Agreements • Signing Statements
7	CON-5: The design of the judicial branch protects the Supreme Court's Independence as a branch of government, and the emergence and use of judicial review remains a powerful judicial practice.	<p>The judicial branch asserts its independence as a branch of government, and judicial review remains a powerful practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial review was established in <i>Marbury v. Madison</i>. • In 2010, the Supreme Court overturned the portion of the McCain-Feingold Act that limited independent expenditures in <i>Citizens United v. FEC</i>. • Justices are appointed for life, removing them from political pressure.
8	PMI-2: The federal bureaucracy is a powerful institution implementing federal policies with sometimes questionable accountability.	<p>The federal bureaucracy implements federal policies with sometimes questionable accountability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA implementing environmental policies such as the Clean Air Act. • Issuing fines • The IRS collects federal taxes.

Unit 3 - Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

#	Original EU	Alternate Wording with Related Topics
9	CON-6: The Supreme Court's interpretation of the U.S. Constitution is influenced by the composition of the Court and citizen-state interactions. At times, it has restricted minority rights and, at others, protected them.	<p>The Supreme Court's interpretation of the U.S. Constitution is influenced by the composition of the Court. The Court has both restricted & protected minority rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> expanded civil rights by establishing the principle that segregation in schools is unconstitutional. • Upholding of state voter ID laws
10	LOR-2: Provisions of the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights are continually being interpreted to balance the power of government and the civil liberties of individuals.	<p>The Bill of Rights is a tool to continually debate the tension between liberty and order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hate Speech • Gun Policy
11	LOR-3: Protections of the Bill of Rights have been selectively incorporated by way of the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause to prevent state infringement of basic liberties.	<p>The 14th Amendment's Due Process clause has been selectively incorporated in order to prevent state infringement of basic liberties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>McDonald v. Chicago</i> • <i>Roe v. Wade</i> • <i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i> • <i>Carpenter v. U.S.</i>
12	PRD-1: The Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause as well as other constitutional provisions have often been used to support the advancement of equality.	<p>The Constitution - especially the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection clause - has been used to advance equality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Windsor v CT</i> • National Organization for Women
13	PMI-3: Public policy promoting civil rights is influenced by citizen-state interactions and constitutional interpretation over time.	<p>Public policy promoting civil rights is influenced by the relationship between the people and government, along with judicial rulings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Rights Act (after the March on Washington) • <i>Brown v. Board</i> (changing interpretation of 14th Amendment)

Unit 4 - American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

#	Original EU	Alternate Wording with Related Topics
14	PMI-4: Widely held political ideologies shape policy debates and choices in American policies.	Political ideologies (liberal vs. conservative) shape the debates and choices in American policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immigration policy (path to citizenship & DACA vs. border security)• Gun policy (controlling gun violence vs. right to own gun)
15	MPA-1: Citizen beliefs about government are shaped by the intersection of demographics, political culture, and dynamic social change.	Citizen beliefs about government are shaped by a combination of demographics (age, gender, race, etc.), political culture, and social change. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women tend to vote more for Democrats• Children tend to adopt political views of parents
16	MPA-2: Public opinion is measured through scientific polling, and the results of public opinion polls influence public policies and institutions.	Scientific polling measures public opinion and influences policies and institutions. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pew Research Center• Real Clear Politics

Unit 5 - Political Participation

#	Original EU	Alternate Wording with Related Topics
17	PRD-2: The impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules continues to be contested by both sides of the political spectrum.	Campaign and election rules continue to be contested by liberals and conservatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Citizens United v FEC</i>
18	PRD-3: The various forms of media provide citizens with political information and influence the ways in which they participate politically.	The media provides citizens with information and influences their political participation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print • Television • Internet sources & podcasts • Social media
19	PMI-5: Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government and policy-makers	Linkage institutions (political parties, interest groups, media, and social movements) allow for participation and influence of political process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democrats and Republicans • NRA, Sierra Club, & ACLU • Tea Party, #MeToo, & Black Lives Matter
20	MPA-3: Factors associated with political ideology, efficacy, structural barriers, and demographics influence the nature and degree of political participation.	Political participation is affected by many factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerrymandering • Voter ID laws