


JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL  
SUMMER ASSIGNMENT  2017  
CLASS OF 2018

## **MR. WILLIAMS AP SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2017: THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

It is essential in the AP US Government and Politics course to understand the foundation of our system of government, the U.S. Constitution. Thus, your assignment is to create a personalized annotated outline of the entire US Constitution (preamble, articles and amendments). Note the three different sections (I-III).

Requirements:

- Read, comprehend and annotate the entire US Constitution. This will be preparation for the next part.
- Create a hand-written outline of the entire US Constitution (see example below for how to begin)
  - Annotate the original document so you understand what each component of the Constitution means in modern day terms, what changes have been made over time and how the Constitution is applied today.
  - Now develop an outline based on the original document. It should be in your own words and voice, not the voice of the Framers(or any expert or “expert” found through Google—it is vital to make sense of the text through your own perspective and understanding.)
  - The outline must be in strict outline format: (No bullets: the kind from a gun or the kind marked by dots and dashes).
- Submit your Outline on **Turnitin by no later than Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.** You will be setting up your AP Gov turnitin accounts the first two days of school (Thurs. Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> and Fri. Sept. 1st. So you early birds will have to wait to turn in your assignment that weekend of Sept.2<sup>nd</sup>-Sept.4th. Your **Originality Report percent** must be a **33% or below**, since you are expected to paraphrase the document, not copy it word for word.

**Note:** There will be an exam on the entire Constitution the second week of school. It will be an open note exam, but you may **ONLY** use the handwritten outline that you created.

Example:

- I. Preamble--your translation of what all those goals actually mean (own words)
- II. Articles--explain what they do (in your own words)
  - A. Article I: Legislative Branch--what is it? (in own words)
    - 1. Section 1: Congress—explain what it is and what function this section provides (in own words)
    - 2. Section 2: House of Representatives-- explain what it is and what function this section provides (in own words)
      - a. Clause/Sub Section 1: Elections-- explain what it is and what function this section provides (in own words)
      - b. Clause/Sub Section 2: Qualifications-- explain what it is and what function this section provides (in own words)

Etc. through the very last amendment. I recommend grouping the amendments together (i.e. Progressive Era Amendments, Reconstruction Amendments).

- The Constitution I would use for this can be found on my website: <https://sites.google.com/site/williamsapgov/> Just look on the right hand side of the page for the link: Constitution.
- If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me at: [brett-williams@scusd.edu](mailto:brett-williams@scusd.edu)