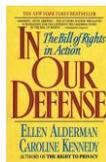




Welcome to AP US Government & Politics! I look forward to working with you in the fall!! In preparation for what we will be discussing upon your return in September, you will do some reading and writing. This will help build your understanding before starting the course!

1. **Current Events Journal**: You chose the **BEST** time to take AP Gov – in the midst of a presidential election! During the course of this summer (Starting the week of July 3rd-July 9th and ending the week of August 21-August 27th) you will keep a current events journal. At the end of each week, type a minimum of two paragraphs (complete sentences; ~500 words) about a major event(s) in American government or politics happening in that week. In the first paragraph, you should describe the event(s) and in the second paragraph, you should analyze the significance of it/them and state any opinions, thoughts, or analysis you might have about it/them. At the bottom of each entry, please cite the article you are referencing in correct MLA format. At the end of the summer, you should have 8 entries total – one for each week between July 3rd and August 27th.
2. **Summer Reading Assignment “In Our Defense”**: You are to read the book titled “In Our Defense; The Bill of Rights in Action” by Ellen Alderman and Caroline Kennedy. This book shares Supreme Court cases that are specific to the first ten amendments to the Constitution (Bill of Rights). After reading, select THREE cases from at least TWO different Amendments and write a 3-5 page “case brief”. First, you are to summarize – IN YOUR OWN WORDS – what the case was about and the ruling. Then explain how this case applies to the amendment it comes from. For example, if the case comes from the section about the First Amendment, explain how and why the case connects to the First Amendment. Lastly, what is the significance of each case? What impact does this have on individuals’ rights moving forward?



These are due on **Monday, September 12th** – they must be submitted on [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) by class time that day, but can be submitted sooner if you complete the assignments early. Submit as one full document. Class ID is: 12794973 and Password is: TMurphy205.

Enjoy your summer, and rest up!
Ms. Murphy