

Hello AP GoPo Student \_\_\_\_\_!

As you may already know, AP courses at Gettysburg High School require summer assignments, and this one is no different. There are two summer assignments for this course; one is a guided reading of pre-revolutionary and revolutionary political documents that influenced the founding of our country. The second is a current events assignment, to bring the material into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Both of these will be due the first day of school, in August, even though the class won't be meeting until the following January. If you are like most AP students, your schedule is going to be very busy this year, so giving you an extension to work on these assignments past the summer would not be doing you any favors, so please turn it in on time or before.

There are two ways to turn in your assignment. The first is to kill some trees, print it all out, and give it to me at school. The other is to e-mail me for the assignment in electronic form then convert it to a Google Doc and share it with me – make sure you share with editing rights and with notification turned on so I get the e-mail.

The Guided Reading is straight forward – just do the readings and answer the questions – although, good students that you are, you know that order is wrong – you should read the questions *before* the reading, then again after as you answer them. Since all of these documents are older than copyright laws, they are available in the public sphere. I have put a link to each one below its name. They are all from the Gutenberg project except the Montesquieu, which Gutenberg only had in the original (feel free to read that if you are also fluent in French) and the two declarations, both from the National Archives; just follow the links under that section.

The current event assignment is a little more complicated. It requires you to gain some understanding of each of the sections we will be studying. As these are the subject areas suggested by the College Board to prepare for the exam, information on their content is readily available online. Then you need to find two (2) current event articles for each of the five (5) sections. For each article, you are to write a summary of the article and then a second paragraph analyzing why you think it fits within the subject heading you chose it for. The second part will weigh most in determining your success, so make sure you know what the subject heads entail.

That's it. Any questions, or to request an electronic form of the assignment, feel free to e-mail me at [tjurney@gasd-pa.org](mailto:tjurney@gasd-pa.org) or stop by B233. I look forward to meeting you all in the Spring of 2023.

*Thomas F. Jurney*

## Assignment the First: Guided Reading

*You may bullet-point all responses<sup>1</sup>.*

### John Locke: *Second Treatise of Civil Government*

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/7370>

Before reading Locke, do some research<sup>2</sup> and discuss the historical context of the *Second Treatise*. When did he write this and why? What was his purpose? What was happening at the time that can provide insight into Locke's motivations and perspective?

In what many ways and in what contexts does Locke continuously refer to the laws of nature? How does Locke differentiate between the laws of nature and the laws of man? Provide specific support from the reading.

When, according to Locke, is it necessary for man to give up certain liberties under the laws of nature?

According to Locke, what is the role of the legislative power and how does it get that power? Be detailed in your response.

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<sup>1</sup> While good grammar and complete sentences are great, AP GoPo isn't particular about form, but content, so bullet-pointing this assignment will get you in the practice.

<sup>2</sup> <https://plato.stanford.edu/> is a great source, as is <https://iep.utm.edu/> or even [https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Political\\_philosophy](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Political_philosophy), just no Wikipedia, please.

Under what circumstances, to Locke, might it be necessary for the people to dissolve their government and start anew? Be detailed in your response.

### **Baron de Montesquieu: *The Spirit of the Laws***

<http://www.bard.edu/library/arendt/pdfs/Montesquieu-Spirit.pdf>

Before reading Montesquieu, do some research and discuss the historical context of *The Spirit of the Laws*. When did he write this and why? What was his purpose? What was happening at the time that can provide insight into Montesquieu's motivations and perspective?

Immediately in the first five paragraphs Montesquieu lays out an idea that directly influenced the shaping of American government. What is it and why does he state it is so important?

According to Montesquieu, who should exercise executive power? Who should exercise legislative power? Why?

What does Montesquieu say about the idea of the executive limiting the legislative power? How about the legislative limiting the executive power?

Who, according to Montesquieu, should comprise the army, and what role does he say the army should play?

To Montesquieu, what will ultimately cause the state to perish?

### **Jean Jacques Rousseau: *The Social Contract***

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/46333>

Before reading Rousseau, do some research and discuss the historical context of *The Social Contract*. When did he write this and why? What was his purpose? What was happening at the time that can provide insight into Rousseau's motivations and perspective?

To Rousseau, what is the fundamental question that he seeks to address in *The Social Contract*? Reword and analyze this question.

According to Rousseau, what is the social contract and what are the social contract's benefits to society? Explain thoroughly, and include who the parties to the contract are and what obligations they have under the contract – what are they giving up to the other?

What does Rousseau think of the concept of individualism, and how does the social contract affect individual will?

What is Rousseau's overall thinking on the concept of representative democracy vs. direct democracy? Explain in detail.

In what ways are Rousseau's theories and Locke's theories of the role of government similar? Cite specific examples.

### **Thomas Paine: *Common Sense***

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/147>

Before reading Paine, read the introduction in the book and discuss the historical context of *Common Sense*. When did he write this and why? What was his purpose? What was happening at the time that can provide insight into Paine's motivations and perspective?

How does Paine view the role and importance of government in general? Be specific.

What are Paine's views on the monarchy, both in general and that of England? Use supporting details from *Common Sense*.

What arguments does Paine use to support the notion that the American colonies would be better off as an independent nation?

A number of Paine's appeals and ideas exhibit the influence of people like Locke, Montesquieu, and Rousseau. Discuss some areas where you see these influences.

## Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Declaration of Independence

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/virginia-declaration-of-rights>

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>

*Certainly, the philosophies undergirding the Declaration of Independence were not original to Thomas Jefferson. Nor was the idea for writing such a declaration in the first place. Likewise, though the Virginia Declaration of Rights preceded Jefferson's Declaration of Independence, most of the ideas expressed were not original to its author, George Mason (and later added to by James Madison, Thomas Ludwell Lee, and Patrick Henry). Indeed, Mason based much of his draft on the English Bill of Rights of 1689. Moreover, both declarations have their roots in Enlightenment thought and the philosophies of the likes of Locke, Montesquieu, and Rousseau and were directly influenced by the urgings of Thomas Paine's Common Sense.*

### **Here are two questions to address:**

What specific things do the Virginia Declaration of Rights and Declaration of Independence have in common?

What specific ideas expressed in both documents can be traced to those of Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Paine? Make direct connections.

## **Assignment the Second: Current Events**

Find two (2) current articles<sup>3</sup> for each of the subject areas. Make sure to include both the title the link to the article! For each one, have a paragraph summary and a second paragraph of your analysis of why it fits within the unit you chose it for.

Subject Areas:

Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy

Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government

Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

Unit 5: Political Participation and Linkage Institutions

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<sup>3</sup> ‘Articles’ are anything written by someone who makes their living writing, i.e. let the market decide. This rules out any random posting, letters to the editor, or graffiti in all it’s forms.