

Name _____

AP American Government & Politics

The independent reading requirement is an important feature of an advanced placement course. It serves to help you become an active reader and thoughtful reader and to prepare you for college level work. The books below may be found at the local library, purchased online or at a bookstore. You are required to turn in your independent reading assignment, which consists of two parts, and this cover sheet on the first day of the course. It will count as 25% of your quarter grade. 50% will be deducted from your grade each day it is late.

1. While reading you must complete a Dialectical Journal (sometimes called a double-entry journal or a reader response journal). A dialectical journal is a journal that records dialogue, or conversation, between the ideas in the book and the ideas of the reader. This is what you must do in your journal: keep a dialogue with yourself. Identify interesting passages from the reading (including page number where it can found), then write down your thoughts, questions, insights, and/or ideas pertaining to the passage. The important part is that you, the reader, are reading something and then responding to it with your feelings and ideas. In short, your dialectical journal will have 15 entries from the book (5 from the beginning, 5 from the middle, and 5 from the end). Your journal will be graded based on your understanding and the insightfulness of your conversation. (One sentence response is not acceptable.) Therefore, you should NOT list a quote that you do not understand and simply say "interesting idea, but I do not understand it or care to understand it."
2. Write a 1-2 page typed summary of the book. Identify the author's thesis in the introduction. The body of your paper should give evidence/support of the thesis. The conclusion should restate the thesis and your thoughts about the book. See attached example.
3. Thoroughly review the 27 Amendments. We will have an Amendment test (100 Points) the first week of school.

Dialectical Journal

Quotation	Page	Why do I find this quotation interesting or important?

Select one of the books below:

The Essential Bernie Sanders and His Vision for America by Jonathan Tasini

Crippled America: How to Make America Great Again by Donald J. Trump