

AP Government Current Events Journal

It is crucial that AP Government students are aware of current events and issues. Each week (9 total), it is required that you keep up with news events occurring in the United States and globally. Specifically, I am looking for national events that will either influence policy (i.e.: Increasing foreclosure rates) or news that comes directly from government actions (i.e.: a new bill is going through Congress or the appointment of a new Supreme Court justice).

Your assignment is to watch a minimum of one hour of an accredited news program- MSNBC, Fox News, CNN, etc. - a week and write in a journal the major events. It is preferred that you break up this hour of news into two intervals of 30min. each day or four intervals of 15 min. each day. Also, varying your selection of programs will provide you with a broader perspective of how news is reported. Finally, in your journal along with the issues, be sure to include a sentence or two addressing how this event is pertinent to the US government.

If you choose to watch a program such as *The Daily Show with John Stewart* or *Hard Ball with Chris Mathews*, you also need to include in your journal entry how these programs demonstrate certain bias.

As an alternative to watching television, **five internet news stories** per week may also be reported on. Again the websites must be accredited news resources.

Set up of journal: Each week should be its own entry. Date the week, write the name of the program you watched, and write a 2-5 sentence summary of the major news events. On a new line or in a new paragraph, write additional sentences 1-2 addressing how these events affect the US government. If you watch an entertainment type news program, include examples of news biases.