

# Summer Reading

## St. Bernard High School

United States Government and Politics (Advanced Placement)  
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### **Textbook:**

Wilson, James Q. and John J. DiIulio. *American Government*, Eighth Edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001.

### **Summer Reading Books\*:**

Hamilton, Lee H. *How Congress Works and Why You Should Care*. Indiana University Press, 2004.

Gould, Lewis L. *The Modern American Presidency*. University Press of Kansas; 2004.

### **Optional/Recommended Summer Reading\*:**

Woodward, Bob. *Plan of Attack*. Simon & Schuster; 2004.

Wright, Lawrence. *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9-11*. Knopf, 2006.

\*Summer reading books can be purchased easily online or found/ordered at a local book store.

### **The Assignment:**

1. Legislative Branch: Read *How Congress Works and Why You Should Care* and answer the two essay questions below.
2. Executive Branch: Read *The Modern Presidency* and answer the two essay questions below.
3. Essays: Write four essays of three pages each on the following topics. Each essay must have a thesis statement explaining your overall argument. Essays need to be well constructed and use specific examples to prove your points. Because this is college level work, grammar, spelling and punctuation should be flawless. Essays need to be double-spaced in size 12 font with Times New Roman or Arial font. The first time you cite a source in a paper, please write in parenthesis the author's name and page number after the sentence; ex (Gould, 18) Subsequent citations from that same work only require the same page number; ex: (23).

### **Questions from the Modern Presidency:**

1. Why has the presidency become more powerful? What demands and factors have contributed to the development of the “modern American presidency?”
2. Gould argues that the modern American presidency demonstrates the triumph of “public relations over public policy.” Evaluate this argument by tracing the issues of media, public relations and campaigning over the last 100 years. Use specific examples when writing your essay.

### **Questions from How Congress Works:**

3. What interests do Congressmen have to face when voting on a bill? Should Congressmen vote in the interests of the nation as a whole or represent the interests of their districts? What did the Founders intend?
4. Why is Congress historically so unpopular? Are these criticisms of Congress justified?