

## Analyzing the U.S. Constitution

Understanding the US Constitution will be an important factor in your success in AP US Government and Politics. It will also help you make larger connections once we move into AP Comparative Government and Politics. Use a copy of the Constitution and the document titled “Constitution Review and Guide” to help you understand each of the articles of the Constitution and each of the amendments in depth. By the end of the summer, you should be able to identify and summarize the following:

- Purpose and meaning of the Preamble
- The idea of popular sovereignty
- Requirements for being elected to specific positions
- Importance of some of the positions in government
- How bills are proposed and passed
- Expressed powers of Congress
- Necessary and Proper Clause
- Powers given to and denied to Congress and the states
- Length of the term of office of different positions
- Presidential powers
- Cabinet agencies
- Bureaucratic agencies
- Types of court cases heard by each court
- Full Faith and Credit Clause
- Privileges and Immunities Clause
- Ratification of amendments
- Basic protections and rights given to the people
- **Quick summary of each of the amendments**
  - Focus on this if you focus on nothing else!

**Your assignment will be to create your own study guide by identifying each of the items above. The answers can be found in the US Constitution and the “Constitution Review and Guide”.**

You will also be responsible for reading the packet that will introduce AP Comparative Government and Politics. There are questions embedded in the packet to help further your understanding, but these questions are for your use only.

While there will be no test on this material during the first week of school, it will be extremely important that you have this background knowledge because we will move very quickly through the course. These topics will be tested throughout the year in various formats.