

# Summer Assignment Instructions For AP Government (U.S. & Comparative)

First of all, welcome to AP Government at Westfield High School. We hope your summer is enjoyable and that you are able to come back healthy and eager this fall to tackle the rigors of the senior year.

To help prepare you for your AP Government experience, we have compiled a summer assignment that is informative, that provides you with some requisite knowledge for our courses, and that models the type of subject matter you will be exposed to throughout the year.

All required readings are to be accessed digitally through provided links or this document.

Your task is to read and prepare for a multiple choice assessment covering all material assigned. The assessment will be given soon after our return to school.

## Tips & Suggestions:

Much of what you will encounter amounts to advanced college-level reading. Read for main ideas and concepts, rather than focusing on memorizing facts. Example: You will NOT be expected to identify specific numerical *Federalist Papers* (i.e. #10 vs. #39), but you will be assessed on the major themes that are discussed within the assigned *Federalist Papers* as a whole.

**We strongly urge you to use the structure below in order to summarize each reading.** If you find yourself unable to write a coherent summary, then consider that you will likely need to read the material again. Your summary should convey that you truly understand the main ideas.

**Next, write down one question you have about the reading.** A relevant question could be:

- a. a general question about a key or unfamiliar concept discussed in the reading.
- b. a question that you think a teacher would ask and expect to be answered in class.

Time permitting, we will engage in class discussions prior to the test that will center on the questions you and your fellow students prepare.

For each document below, please list the main idea and key passages.

**Federalist No. 1**

**Federalist No. 10**

**Federalist No 39**

**Federalist No 51**

**Federalist No 70**

**Brutus Anti-Federalist No. 1**

**United States v Lopez**

**Letter From Birmingham Jail**

Some sample multiple choice questions:

1. The *Federalist Papers* were:

- A. essays written in support of ratification of the Constitution.
- B. the original name of the plan of government adopted at the Constitutional Convention.
- C. newspapers which backed the Federalist Party in early federal elections.
- D. essays critical of the Constitution as originally drafted.

2. Collectively, the most important effect of the constitutional amendments ratified since the adoption of the Bill of Rights has been to:

- A. strengthen the foundation of the market economy.

- B. expand the powers of the states versus the federal government.
- C. reinforce the power of the governing elite.
- D. expand liberty and equality.

## The Constitutional Debate

[Federalist 1](#)

[Federalist 10](#)

[Federalist 39](#)

[Federalist 51](#)

Federalist 70 (Located below)

Brutus: Thoughts On Anti-Federalist #1 (Located below)

## Constitutional Change & Interpretation

[Constitutional Amendments 11-27](#)

[United States v. Lopez](#) - "Opinion Announcement" audio file

[Letter From A Birmingham Jail](#) - Video: Must be viewed in Chrome

## The Federalist No. 70

While Hamilton argues at length against a committee council sharing executive powers, this essay has been excerpted here to narrow the focus on why investing power in the presidency will not threaten the liberty of Americans, but would actually provide a way to protect individual rights.

As you read, focus on Hamilton's argument and the implications of that argument as reflected in the Constitution.

*The Executive Department Further Considered*

*From the New York Packet*

*Tuesday, March 18, 1788.*

*Author: Alexander Hamilton*

*To the People of the State of New York:*

*THERE is an idea, which is not without its advocates, that a vigorous Executive is inconsistent with the genius of republican government. The enlightened well-wishers to this species of government must at least hope that the supposition is destitute of foundation; since they can never admit its truth, without at the same time admitting the condemnation of their own principles.*

## Academic Vocabulary

Use what you've already learned and context clues from the reading to define *republican government*.

## Source Analysis

Highlight or underline why, according to Hamilton, a strong presidency is beneficial to the people.

*Energy in the Executive is a leading character in the definition of good government. It is essential to the protection of the community against foreign attacks; it is not less essential to the steady administration of the laws; to the protection of property against those irregular and high-handed combinations which sometimes interrupt the ordinary course of justice; to the security of liberty against the enterprises and assaults of ambition, of faction, and of anarchy.*

## Source Analysis

Underline where Hamilton argues that weakness in the executive results in a bad or weak government.

*Every man the least conversant in Roman story, knows how often that republic was obliged to take refuge in the absolute power of a single man, under the formidable title of Dictator, as well against the intrigues of ambitious individuals who aspired to the tyranny, and the seditions of whole classes of the community whose conduct threatened the existence of all government, as against the invasions of external enemies who menaced the conquest and destruction of Rome.*

*There can be no need, however, to multiply arguments or examples on this head. A feeble Executive implies a feeble execution of the government. A feeble execution is but another phrase for a bad execution; and a government ill executed, whatever it may be in theory, must be, in practice, a bad government.*

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*Taking it for granted, therefore, that all men of sense will agree in the necessity of an energetic Executive, it will only remain to inquire, what are the ingredients which constitute this energy? How far can they be combined with those other ingredients which constitute safety in the republican sense? And how far does this combination characterize the plan which has been reported by the convention?*

## Check Your Understanding

What does Hamilton assume that all sensible men will conclude?

## Source Analysis

Contrast the information in the last paragraph on this page with what Hamilton says about Rome in the first paragraph. What does he mean by “safety in the republican sense”? Use the space below to compose your answer.

*The ingredients which constitute energy in the Executive are, first, unity; secondly, duration; thirdly, an adequate provision for its support; fourthly, competent powers.*

*The ingredients which constitute safety in the republican sense are, first, a due dependence on the people, secondly, a due responsibility.*

## Check Your Understanding

Rewrite the four “ingredients” of executive energy in your own words.

*Those politicians and statesmen who have been the most celebrated for the soundness of their principles and for the justice of their views, have declared in favor of a single Executive and a numerous legislature. They have with great propriety, considered energy as the most necessary qualification of the former, and have regarded this as most applicable to power in a single hand, while they have, with equal propriety, considered the latter as best adapted to deliberation and wisdom, and best calculated to conciliate the confidence of the people and to secure their privileges and interests.*

*That unity is conducive to energy will not be disputed. Decision, activity, secrecy, and dispatch will generally characterize the proceedings of one man in a much more eminent degree than the proceedings of any greater number; and in proportion as the number is increased, these qualities will be diminished....*

## Source Analysis

Paraphrase Hamilton’s argument explaining the implications of having a single person executive versus a committee.

*... In the legislature, promptitude of decision is oftener an evil than a benefit. The differences of opinion, and the jarrings of parties in that department of the government, though they may sometimes obstruct salutary plans, yet often promote deliberation and circumspection, and serve to check excesses in the majority. When a resolution too is once taken, the opposition must be at an end. That resolution is a law, and resistance to it punishable.*

*But no favorable circumstances palliate or atone for the disadvantages of dissension in the executive department. Here, they are pure and unmixed. There is no point at which they cease to operate. They serve to embarrass and weaken the execution of the plan or measure to which they relate, from the first step to the final conclusion of it.*

*They constantly counteract those qualities in the Executive which are the most necessary ingredients in its composition, vigor and expedition, and this without any counterbalancing good.*

## Source Analysis

How does Hamilton view the processes and interactions of the legislature?

*In the conduct of war, in which the energy of the Executive is the bulwark of the national security, every thing would be to be apprehended from its plurality.*

salutary: positive or beneficial

palliate: to reduce or ease the effects of

atone: to make amends

## After You Read

### Reasoning Process

Describe the characteristics or traits that Hamilton views as essential in the executive.

According to Hamilton, how is a president with power and energy not only important to good government but also critical to protecting the rights of the people?

## Some Thoughts on anti-Federalist No. 1

Along with our study of the Federalist Papers, we've been reading through the anti-Federalist papers too. They are often easier to read and frequently raise questions about some of the decisions and compromises that the Founders were required to make in framing the Constitution. The anti-Federalists were almost forced into a negative position from the start of the debate. Hamilton's clever adoption of "Federalist" as a positive moniker to describe the views of those supporting the Constitution left them almost no alternative but to be "anti-Federalist." When you read these essays, however, you're struck with how wary the writers were of the concentration of power in the proposed federal government and especially in the executive. After all, it was the Federalists who were proposing a wholesale replacement of government, a replacement that the anti-Federalists saw as draining authority from the states. The anti-Federalist papers have just as much relevance today as do the Federalist papers.

In [anti-Federalist No. 1](#), Brutus humbly suggests that he has something to offer in a debate so important to "the happiness and misery of generations yet unborn." The crux of the argument is, of course, whether to adopt the new Constitution. *If the constitution, offered to your acceptance, be a wise one, calculated to preserve the invaluable blessings of liberty, to secure the inestimable rights of mankind, and promote human happiness, then, if you accept it, you will lay a lasting foundation of happiness for millions yet unborn; generations to come will rise up and call you blessed. You may rejoice in the prospects of this vast extended continent becoming filled with freemen, who will assert the dignity of human nature. You may solace yourselves with the idea, that society, in this favoured land, will fast advance to the highest point of perfection; the human mind will expand in knowledge and virtue, and the golden age be, in some measure, realised. But if, on the other hand, this form of government contains principles that will lead to the subversion of liberty — **if it tends to establish a despotism, or, what is worse, a tyrannic aristocracy; then, if you adopt it, this only remaining asylum for liberty will be shut up, and posterity will execrate your memory.***

Never before in our country's history has this issue been more relevant than today. With all of its flaws and missteps, the answer has always seemed obvious. In its first 2 centuries America provided unprecedented freedom and prosperity – in some measure realizing the "golden age" of which Brutus spoke. It's been the source of hope, inspiration and an example for the world. But now it seems, our leaders question America's contribution to the cause of human liberty. Over time, the federal government, even without the amendment process, has grown in power and scope to an overbearing extent. A seemingly prescient Brutus warned that there were insufficient protections against the expansion of government in the Constitution. The anti-Federalists looked at history and saw that when the people once part with power, they can seldom or never regain it but by force. *Many instances can be produced in which the people voluntarily increased the powers of their rulers; but few, if any, in which rulers willingly abridged their authority.*

The anti-Federalists believed that was reason enough to induce caution in how power is vested in government. Brutus foresaw the diminished power of the states as a foregone conclusion. He worried about what powers the new and powerful federal government would determine to be "necessary and proper". The term "general welfare" gave him pause as to its potential application. He was even concerned about the proclivity of Congress to get into [debt](#).

*[Congress] has authority to make laws which will affect the lives, the liberty, and property of every man in the United States; nor can the constitution or laws of any state, in any way prevent or impede the full and complete execution of every power given. ... [and the] **authority to contract debts at their discretion**; they are the sole judges of what is necessary to provide for the common defence, and **they only are to determine what is for the general welfare...***

For every bill passed through Congress, thousands of pages of regulations are "enabled" for its implementation.

About.com has a whole [site](#) dedicated to the size and scope of the federal government:

*According to the Office of the Federal Register, in 1998, the [Code of Federal Regulations](#) (CFR), the official listing of all regulations in effect, contained a total of 134,723 pages in 201 volumes that claimed 19 feet of shelf space. In 1970, the CFR totaled only 54,834 pages. The General Accountability Office (GAO) reports that in the four fiscal years from 1996 to 1999, a total of 15,286 new federal regulations went into effect. Of these, 222 were classified as “major” rules, each one having an annual effect on the economy of at least \$100 million.*

*While they call the process “rulemaking,” the regulatory agencies create and enforce “rules” that are truly laws, many with the potential to profoundly effect the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans. What controls and oversight are placed on the regulatory agencies in creating the federal regulations?*

The Obamacare bill by itself is estimated to generate between 30,000 and 50,000 pages of new regulations. Brutus’ predictions on states being beholden to the largess of the federal government weren’t far off the mark either. Consider the ever increasing number of states forced to use “stimulus” funds to provide a short-term “fix” to cover insolvency brought about, in many cases, by unfunded mandates from Washington. Obamacare promises to further add to the burden of bankrupt states. ... *when the federal government begins to exercise the right of taxation in all its parts, the legislatures of the several states will find it impossible to raise monies to support their governments. Without money they cannot be supported, and they must dwindle away, and, as before observed, their powers absorbed in that of the general government.*

Brutus continues on this theme, and raises the specter of a federal government impatient with even the slightest abrogation of authority by the states. ... *it will be found that the power retained by individual states, small as it is, will be a clog upon the wheels of the government of the United States; the latter therefore will be naturally inclined to remove it out of the way. Besides, it is a truth confirmed by the unerring experience of ages, that every man, and every body of men, invested with power, are ever disposed to increase it, and to acquire a superiority over every thing that stands in their way.*

The news of the past several months validates these fears. Recent headlines tell of a federal government that is suing the state of Arizona over its authority to protect its citizens from illegal immigration, to enforce federal law, and to require presentation of an ID to vote.

Brutus then takes his argument in a direction which, until only recently would seem to have been thoroughly disproven by events. He cites Montesquieu’s contention that a large country cannot be effectively governed by either democratic or representative means.

*The confidence which the people have in their rulers, in a free republic, arises from their knowing them, from their being responsible to them for their conduct, and from the power they have of displacing them when they misbehave: but in a republic of the extent of this continent, the people in general would be acquainted with very few of their rulers: the people at large would know little of their proceedings, and it would be extremely difficult to change them. ... The consequence will be, they will have no confidence in their legislature, suspect them of ambitious views, be jealous of every measure they adopt, and will not support the laws they pass. Hence the government will be nerveless and inefficient, and no way will be left to render it otherwise, but **by establishing an armed force** to execute the laws at the point of the bayonet — a government of all others the most to be dreaded.*

*In so extensive a republic, the great officers of government would soon become above the control of the people, and abuse their power to the purpose of aggrandizing themselves, and oppressing them. The trust committed to the executive offices, in a country of the extent of the United-States, must be various and of magnitude.... When these are attended with great honor and emolument, as they always will be in large states, so as greatly to interest men to pursue them, and to be proper objects for ambitious and designing men, such men will be ever*

*restless in their pursuit after them. **They will use the power, when they have acquired it, to the purposes of gratifying their own interest and ambition,** and it is scarcely possible, in a very large republic, to call them to account for their misconduct, or to prevent their abuse of power.*

Does any of this sound familiar? Perhaps we should recall what candidate Obama said in July of 2008. *We cannot continue to rely on our military in order to achieve the national security objectives that we've set. We've got to have a **civilian national security force that's just as powerful, just as strong, just as well-funded.*** The anti-Federalists believed that virtue could be maintained only in small homogeneous republics and that the very size of the republic to be governed by the power concentrated in the central government would lead inevitably to corruption. Maybe they were closer to the truth than we knew.