

**AP Government Summer Assignments**  
**Mrs. Karen Loin - 2023-2024**

**Book Assignments - REQUIRED**

Step 1: Please acquire a copy of *Why We're Polarized*, by Ezra Klein. This book can be affordably purchased for approximately \$11.00 on [Amazon](#). This should be done soon, so you have the book in time to complete the first assignment.

Step 2: Each week you will read one chapter of the book. Every Thursday, there will be a reading comprehension question due by 11:59 p.m. These questions will be posted on Schoology and answers submitted through Schoology (see the Course Description sheet, attached, for instructions on using Schoology). These together are going to be worth one test grade during first quarter.

I am completely aware that people have vacations throughout the summer and thus will institute two policies.

1. The two lowest scores will be dropped. Therefore, I will only count the top 8 scores for each student.
2. I will also post the reading comprehension questions at least two weeks before they are due, so everyone has ample time to work ahead if they have upcoming plans.

I will grade the discussion questions on a scale of 1-5.

- 5 – Excellent
- 4 – Good
- 3 – Average
- 2 – Poor
- 1 – Below Average

Here is the list of due dates for the assignments.

June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	July 27 <sup>th</sup>
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	August 3 <sup>rd</sup>
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	August 10 <sup>th</sup>
July 13 <sup>th</sup>	August 17 <sup>th</sup>
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	August 24 <sup>th</sup>

## **Current Events News Feed Assignment – EXTRA CREDIT**

There will be a discussion board posted on Schoology. Up to five times throughout the summer you can earn a free one hundred on a homework assignment. When you are extra busy during the school year and want to skip an assignment, these will be valuable.

Step 1: Look for an online news article or opinion piece related to US government, law, and politics that you find interesting.

Step 2: Post the following onto the discussion board...

**Title of the Article:** Title of the Article or Piece

**Author:** Name of Author(s)

**News Article or Opinion Piece:**

**Summary:** Write a short 2-3 sentence objective summary of the piece.

**Importance:** Write one sentence on why you think the article/piece is important.

**Source:** Name the Source of the Article/Piece

**Source Bias:** State whether the source leans liberal or conservative and to what extent.

This can be found on websites like [AllSides.com](https://www.allsides.com) or the [Media Bias Chart](https://www.media-bias-chart.com).

**Link:** HTML Link to the article.

This will create our own class “news feed” featuring news articles we find interesting and important.

Example:

**Title of the Article:** Johnny Depp vs. Amber Heard: What We Lose When We Turn Real Life into Entertainment

**Author:** Caroline Framke

**News Article or Opinion Piece:** Opinion Piece

**Summary:** Commentary on the recent Johnny Depp/Amber Heard trial, reflecting on how people turn courtroom events into entertainment and how this is not something new.

**Importance:** The piece is important because it discusses how people can be drawn into something like politics or law as entertainment and begin to “follow the case” or election similar to how a sports fan follows a professional team. The commentary suggests that the reality of the facts and law get lost along the way.

**Source:** Variety.com

**Source Bias:** Skews left

**Link:** <https://variety.com/2022/tv/opinion/johnny-depp-amber-heard-verdict-entertainment-1235283022/>