Welcome to AP U.S. Government and Politics. This college level course will give you the opportunity to earn college credit through the College Board’s Advanced Placement Exam. AP Government requires high level thinking skills and the ability to analyze and effectively communicate your understanding of abstract concepts in writing.

There are three parts to this summer assignment:

1. Read the United States Constitution, which includes the Bill of Rights. There are many versions on the web, including the two below:
   - [https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution) (This also has a free app.)

2. Make sure you understand each section of the Constitution well enough to summarize its main ideas to another adult. If you are having trouble understanding certain portions of the document look for other resources like Khan Academy or youtube videos.

   Write a minimum of 6 essays about current events which feature issues related to individual US citizens; local, state, or the federal governments. Your objective is to summarize the news event and explain how it illustrates the rights and powers that are granted or limited by the United States Constitution. Be sure to relate each essay to one or more specific constitutional amendments, clauses, articles or sections. Chose news stories that really interest you.

   Each entry should be a minimum of 2 paragraphs, including the date, title and MLA 8 citation. Share your insightful opinion of the topic and offer a plausible opposing view. Support your points with evidence or examples when appropriate and demonstrate your best writing skills. Remember, you have chosen to take a college level course. I would encourage you to share your entries with trusted adults who can question or challenge your ideas.

3. Submit your work on the first day of class.

Requirements
- Article Title
- Date
- MLA 8 Citation
- Summary
- Connection to the constitution
- Your personal opinion of the issue discussed.
- A plausible opposing opinion.
The Trump administration is separating parents, who seek refugee status, from their children when they attempt to cross the border illegally. Many people are fleeing violent and oppressive governments and they are trying to obtain political asylum in the US. The administration is taking the position that these parents are committing a crime when they cross the border without the necessary documentation. The previous policy allowed families to stay together, however the law was recently changed making parents criminals. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has admitted that the government is doing this in order to deter more families from coming into the country. The Attorney General recently said, "If you don't like that, then don't smuggle children over our border."

I think this situation can be connected to the constitution under the 4th and 7th amendments. The 4th amendment states: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized. The 7th amendment states: Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

I think it is cruel and unreasonable to punish people for crossing a border by separating them from their children. I cannot imagine how it must feel knowing that the one place you think of as a beacon of hope, is the same place that is inflicting such mental and emotional cruelty on these families. These parents are risking everything to provide a better life for their children. I hope someone in our government is in the process of taking this issue to court and putting a stop to this practice as quickly as possible. Representative Ted Lieu from California recently wrote, "It violates human rights laws. It is unAmerican. It would shock Jesus. But I think the most appropriate way to describe it is this: The policy is evil."

People who oppose my view may feel that this is as necessary as it is harsh. They believe that drastic measures are needed to deter people from entering the country unlawfully. Some believe that these children are being smuggled or trafficked across the border by people who may not really be their parents. If people want to come to this country, they need to follow the proper procedures and wait in line like everyone else.

If you have questions about the assignment you can email me at khenry@scusd.net.