**💡 Welcome to AP U.S. Government!**

This summer assignment is all about connecting the big ideas in our founding documents to real life—your life. It’s designed to make you think, not stress you out. You’ve got flexible options and examples to help guide you.

**Goal:** Connect one of our founding documents to a current issue that matters to you.

**📘 Step 1: Choose a Document (15-30 minutes)!**

Pick one of the following to focus on:

* Declaration of Independence
* U.S. Constitution
* Federalist No. 10, 51, or 78
* Brutus No. 1
* Letter from a Birmingham Jail (MLK)

Not sure where to start? Choose the one that sounds most familiar or interesting.

**🌎 Step 2: Choose a Real-World Issue (15-30 minutes)**

Pick something current—something that matters to you.
You might look at:

* Your school or neighborhood
* A local or national election
* News or social media issues
* Topics like rights, protests, voting, power, laws, or leadership

**🗣️ Part 3: (Optional but Encouraged!) Talk to Someone**

Interview a parent, teacher, or local leader and ask:

* What do you think about this issue?
* Do you see this as a rights or government issue?
* How should the government respond?

You can quote them or summarize what you learned in your reflection.

**📰 Step 4: Find a Local Connection**

Find a news article (local or state) that relates to your issue.

Can’t find one? As an adult or bring the idea to class! We’ll help you find a connection.

**✍️ Step 5: Write a 1–2 Page Reflection (1-2 pages; 250-400 words)**

Write a response that answers the following:

* What document did you choose, and what was its main idea?
* What issue did you connect it to, and how does it relate?
* What did you learn from your article or interview?
* Are the document’s principles being upheld or challenged today?
* What’s your take—should anything be done?

**Format:** Typed or neatly handwritten. Double-spaced is great!

**🎥 Optional Bonus (Additional creativity points added to final score!)**

Create a 1–2-minute PSA, video, or podcast that links your document to the issue.
We’ll post them and comment during the first week of school!

**📌 What to Turn In (Due: Second Tuesday of School)**

* 1–2 page reflection
* Title of your local article + link or printout (optional summary)
* (Optional) Interview summary or quote
* (Optional) Creative project for extra credit

Here is an example of a final product! You can’t use my selections 😊

📘 **Document Chosen:** Federalist No. 70
📰 **Issue:** The President's use of executive orders to bypass Congress
🗞️ **Article**: “Biden’s Executive Orders Face Pushback from Lawmakers” – *The News & Observer (Raleigh)*
🎤 **Interview Takeaway:** “We elect leaders to make decisions, not wait for Congress to play nice.” — My uncle, who served in the military

**✍️ Reflection Example (250 Words)**

*I chose Federalist No. 70 because it explains why the U.S. needs a strong, energetic executive—especially in times of crisis or disagreement. Alexander Hamilton argued that one clear leader helps create unity, accountability, and decisive action. He believed that a weak executive branch would lead to chaos, especially during national emergencies or intense political debates.*

*I connected this to a recent article about President Biden using executive orders to pass policies on environmental protections and student loan relief. While some lawmakers support these actions, others are upset that Congress was bypassed. This debate is exactly what Hamilton was preparing for—how to balance speed and strength with checks and transparency.*

*My uncle shared that in the military, leaders have to make tough calls quickly. He sees executive orders as necessary, especially when Congress is gridlocked. I hadn't thought about it that way before.*

*This project helped me realize that the ideas in the Constitution still show up in today’s headlines. It made me ask better questions: Are these executive orders good for the country, or are they an overreach of power? I’m still thinking about that. But I now understand that Federalist No. 70 was written with this exact kind of moment in mind.*