

**Advanced Placement Government and Politics**  
**2019-2020**  
**Summer Assignment**

Dear Advanced Placement Student,

I am looking forward to spending next year with you in AP Government and Politics!

What separates Advanced Placement Government and Politics from our Government and Economics class is a higher degree of focus upon the *political* component of our government. This catches many students off guard! Honestly, in the AP class you will learn a far more balanced and realistic picture of the mechanics of our *political* system. In other words, you will find out how our government actually works. For many of you, all of this *political* language will be like a foreign language! I want you to prepare yourself to enter into a class on government which will spend much time considering current events and then exploring the *politics*! Debates and serious class discussions will be a cultural element of our time together! You will love it!

You will be expected to complete a significant amount of reading and study outside of class. To prepare you for this experience, I have arranged the following summer assignment, **due on the first day of class.**

**Summer Reading Assignment**

**How Washington Really Works by Charles Peters (0-201062470-2)**

You are to read each chapter (8 total) of *How Washington Really Works*. (You do not need to read the epilogue, “A Way Out”.)

For each chapter, write a 1.5 page analysis of the institution. The format should be Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double spaced, with 1 inch margins for the whole sheet. To help you get started with each chapter analysis, here are some questions to consider:

1. What is the role this institution plays in Washington?
2. What formal rules does this institution operate under? What informal rules does this institution operate under?
3. What is the purpose of this institution?
4. Who are the key players in this institution? (people or organizations?)
5. What impact does this institution have on the development of policy?
6. What other information is unique to this institution?

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns at [ndelaet@phoenixchristian.org](mailto:ndelaet@phoenixchristian.org) . Do know that during the summer it may take me a few days to get back to emails.

Mr. Nathan de Laet