



The Catholic High School of Baltimore Summer Reading List

Teacher's Name: Colleen Guler

School Year: 2017-2018 Grade Level: 11

Course No.: _230 Course Name: AP US Government and Politics

Academic Level (Honors/AP/CP/CPA): AP

Reading:

Dinner with Democracy by Cynthia Farrar is an essay from The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity, sixth edition, pages 7-13.

I will send you a scanned copy of the essay, or provide you with a hard copy.

Podcasts:

<http://www.npr.org/podcasts/510316/1a>

1A is a radio podcast designed to discuss current political issues in America with expert speakers and limited listener call-in. You will be responsible for listening to FIVE podcasts and writing reflections on each – two are required and three will be on issues of your choosing. The rubric for the reflections follow.

Required Podcasts: January 3 – *An Even More Perfect Union*

January 9 – *Politically Speaking: Talking to Each Other with Civility* **OR**

January 23 - *Fighting for The Facts: How to Tell What's News And What's Fiction*

Your choice: You are free to choose three other topics. They can be specific to a branch of government or an important issue facing our nation.

Assignment:

In studying AP Government this year, you will gain an understanding not only of how our government works (or doesn't), but you will also understand the role of political involvement of the citizenry. *Dinner with Democracy* will set the tone for what it means to be a citizen in a democracy. After reading the essay, answer the following questions:

Dinner with Democracy questions and reflection (25 points)

1. In the dinners, Dr. Farrar posed the question, "if we are to consider ourselves a democratic entity, what would that mean?" What does it mean to you that you are part of a democratic entity? What expectations do you have of a democratic society? What contribution do you feel you would need to make to a democratic society?

A Quality Secondary Education in the Franciscan Tradition



2. What, according to Farrar, are the defining features of ‘deliberative democracy’?
3. One finding of the dinners was that we tend to hang out with people like ourselves. While that is not earth shattering news, how might that affect the success of democracy? How important are discourse and interaction in a democracy?
4. “Citizens are neither members of a tribe nor consumers. What they have in common is citizenship and they engage in constant renegotiation of the inevitable tensions between public goods and private interests.” What do you see as important public goods and private interests in your community? In the USA? What tensions do you see between them?
5. Briefly reflect on other ideas that struck you in the essay.

Podcast Assignment (10 points each)

1. **Bi-Monthly Assignment** – Every two weeks, select a podcast to listen to and review. I recommend beginning with the January 3 podcast, *An Even More Perfect Union*.
2. **Logistics** –
 - √ Summarize each podcast in 5-10 sentences including topic, names of guests and key points discussed. (5 points)
 - √ Write a reaction to this podcast either on the issue itself, how the issue was presented, or its implications for government. (5 points)
3. **Format** –Type your summary and reaction following the appropriate TCHS guidelines for the proper heading and turn your work into the e-locker on Plus Portals (if it is available), or email it to me.
4. **Due Dates for the podcasts** –
July 7th; July 21st; August 4th; August 18th; September 1st

If you have any questions as you go, please contact me at cguler@thecatholichighschool.org.