

**The Catholic High School of Baltimore  
Summer Reading List**

**Teacher's Name:**     Kerri Kornobis    

**School Year:**     2011 – 2012     **Grade Level:**     11<sup>th</sup>    

**Course No.:**     230     **Course Name:**     AP United States Government and Politics    

**Academic Level:**     AP    

**Reading:**

Hardball

By Chris Matthews

**Assignment:**

In an effort to focus your thinking politically rather than historically, your task this summer break is a careful reading of the book *Hardball* by Chris Matthews, host of the MSNBC show of the same name. The assignment below is due on the first day of school. The book can be bought from Amazon.com or at most local book stores as well.

*"Hardball is clean, aggressive Machiavellian politics. It is the discipline of gaining and holding power, useful to any profession or undertaking, but practiced most openly and unashamedly in the world of public affairs."* Matthews supports his observations and conclusions with quotes from a variety of sources. Below are a list of **political maxims**, from *Hardball* and a series of **quotes** from the book. Your task is to choose any 10 quotes and for each quote:

(a) Describe the **context** of the quote, giving appropriate details including the **speaker** and **background** of the quote

AND

(b) Explain its meaning using one of the listed **political maxims**.

**Political Maxims-**



*What've ya done for me lately?*

*All politics is local.*

*It's better to receive than to give.*

*Triangulation*

*Dance with the one that brung ya.*

*Keep your enemies in front of you.*

*Retail politics.*

*Don't Get Mad; Don't Get Even; Get Ahead.*

*Leave no shot unanswered.*

*Hang a Lantern on Your Problem.*

*Politics = Power*

*Only talk when it improves the silence.*

*Positioning.*

### Quotes

The quotes are taken from the latest edition of *Hardball*:

1. "He's not going to win. It's a Republican district. He'd be better for us if he loses. He'll work for me. He'll bring his organization with him."
2. No, Ronald Reagan is a man of the media: the Great Wholesaler ... he was positioning himself with enormous science, establishing himself in the public mind not as an aloof head of government but as the man next door. Every action was designed to make him appear close to the people and distant from the government.
3. "I've lived across the street from you for 18 years ... I shoveled your walk in winter. I cut your grass in summer ... I didn't think I had to ask you for your vote. He never forgot her response. 'Tom, I want you to know something: people like to be asked.'"
4. "Better to have them p....n' inside the tent than outside p....n' in."
5. ... the elections of 1994 were a rough slap in the face. His party lost control of both houses of Congress for the first time since 1954 ... Rather than join his fellow Democrats in defeat, he took advisor Dick Morris's advice ... "parroting the rhetoric of the congressional Democrats would merely be sharing the storm cellar with them ... Adopting the Republican agenda begged the question. The president needed to take a position that blended the best of each party's position." (DO NOT USE POSITIONING TO EXPLAIN THIS QUOTE)



6. "... His message came across clear and appealing ... He described America as a country 'where no Catholic prelate would tell the President -- should he be a Catholic - how to act and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote. This is a country where religious liberty is so indivisible that an act against one Church is treated as an act against all."

7. "Florida Senator, Lawton Chiles, rejected the well-tailored dark blue suit so fashionable in D.C. 'When I dress like that, no one comes up to me in the airport to say hello.'"

8. "We succeed in enterprises which demand the positive qualities we possess, but we excel at those which also make use of our defects"...(relate to Ed Muskie)

9. The waiter said, "Well, maybe you don't know who I am." "Well, as a matter of fact, I don't ... who are you" "I'm the guy who's in charge of the butter."

10. "Cry Baby", screamed the headline of the *New York Daily News* above a picture of Newt in diapers. "Newt's Tantrum: He closed down the government because Clinton made him sit at the back of the plane."

11. "Don't give it all at once. Give five thousand at the start and indicate they can come back for more if they need it. Halfway through the campaign, they'll be back. This time give them another five thousand and indicate that is all you intend to contribute. About a week before the election, they'll be some desperate for money that someone will suggest that maybe you can be induced to come to the rescue..."

12. "It's been said that I'm not the most compelling speaker, and there are actually those who claim that I don't always communicate in the clearest, most concise way. Well, I may not be the most eloquent ... and I may sometimes be a little awkward ... but there is nothing self-conscious in my love of country. I am a quiet man, but I hear the quiet people others don't. The ones who raise a family, pay the taxes, meet the mortgages."

13. "JFK would call 5 or 6 ... LBJ would take 19 names and call them all."

14. "The purpose of the war room was not just to respond to Republican attacks ... It was to respond to them fast, even before they were broadcasted or published, when the lead of the story was still rolling around in the reporter's mind..."

### **Reading:**

Let Me Play: the Story of Title IX: The Law that Changed the Future of Girls in America

*A Quality Secondary Education in the Franciscan Tradition*



By Karen Blumenthal

**Assignment:**

Read Let Me Play: the Story of Title IX: The Law That Changed the Future of Girls in America by Karen Blumenthal and complete the following questions in paragraph form.

**\*\*\*\*Be sure to use examples that demonstrate your understanding of the book\*\*\*\***

1. As you read you will encounter vignettes of significant women in history. Chose one that stands out to you the most; (it should be about a women that shocked or inspired you) and explain why.
2. A revolution is defined as drastic and far-reaching change in ways of thinking and behaving. In what way was the passing of Title IX a revolution?
3. Using details from the book, describe the legislative steps taken to get this law passed.
4. What conflicts have occurred as a result of the passing of Title IX?
5. How is your life different because of this piece of legislation?
6. Create a timeline on loose-leaf paper of the 10 most important events in the history of Title IX.
7. Blumenthal describe the inner working of Congress as she tells the story of Title IX. Take careful notes of the details she describes on the following topics that appear throughout the book. An understanding of how congress works is critical to your success this year and will give you an edge on the upcoming coursework.
  1. how a bill becomes a law
  2. working in committees
  3. differences between the House and the Senate
  4. passing a constitutional amendment
  5. the Civil Rights Act of 1964

*A Quality Secondary Education in the Franciscan Tradition*