Welcome to AP U.S. Government and Politics!

For the summer reading selection, please read the following book:

New York: St. Martin’s Press.
ISBN: 978-1-250-20579-7

This is the story of Anthony Ray Hinton, a man convicted of capital murder in Alabama in 1985. He spent 30 years on Alabama’s Death Row, including several years after he proved his innocence. This book takes a look not only at the reality of prison life, but some of the ways Mr. Hinton tried to survive his incarceration.

In this course we will look at the government and its role in issues of domestic policy, which includes law enforcement and punishment. We also work on argumentative essay writing, a key component of the AP examination next May. For this assignment, I ask that you read the book, answer the following questions, and be prepared to write an argumentative essay when we begin school in August. It’s not difficult, but you have to articulate a point and support it with evidence from a text. This probably sounds familiar, right?

Please type your responses to the following questions—to turn in the day we begin school (Wednesday, August 7th). Your responses do not need to be a specific length, but I should be able to tell that you actually read the book.

1. Describe the crime Mr. Hinton is accused of committing. Why do officials believe he is the culprit?
2. Explain why Mr. Hinton observes, “the best chance for my life was to get sentenced to death.”
3. What specific things did Hinton pray for while he was in prison? Why didn’t he simply pray to be released from jail?
4. What are your thoughts on the death penalty? Should it remain, or should we abolish it? Write about 3-4 sentences supporting your position.

I look forward to meeting you in the fall! Have a great summer 😊

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