

Welcome to AP U.S. Government and Politics!

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

Hinton, Anthony Ray. (2018). *The sun does shine: How I found life and freedom on Death Row*. 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 looks 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,¹ 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 must articulate a point and support it with evidence from a text.

After reading the book, please follow the underlined prompts for each part described below. Type or handwrite your responses and print the necessary parts—to turn in the second day of school (Friday, August 7th).

After reading the book, think about your position on the death penalty. Do you support it? Do you think it should not be used? Do you think it should be used in certain situations?

Part One:

Write a summary of Mr. Hinton's case. Include 10 bullet point facts from the book that supports your thoughts on the death penalty. When we meet, we'll use this information in class as evidence of Mr. Hinton's story.

Part Two:

Research a recent news story (within the past year) that is similar to the one in the book (Someone wrongfully incarcerated). Turn in a copy of the news story. **Make sure your article is about a person, NOT about the death penalty or wrongful incarceration in general. Only print the text of the article—this should only be 1-2 printed pages, not 20 (don't print the ads!)

Curious for more? Here are additional links to peruse:

- What happens if an executed man is found to be innocent afterwards? Read the following articles about Ledell Lee, a man executed in 2017. After his death, DNA evidence cleared him.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/07/us/ledell-lee-dna-testing-arkansas.html>
<https://innocenceproject.org/ledell-lee-what-you-should-know-about-his-case-and-execution/>
- Are there organizations to help people on Death Row? Explore the following websites:
<https://innocenceproject.org/> (Innocence Project)
<https://eji.org/> (Equal Justice Initiative—Bryan Stevenson's organization)
- Is there a movie to watch?
Just Mercy (2019)—stars Michael B. Jordan as Bryan Stevenson (<https://justmercy.eji.org/>); This story focuses on the story of Walter McMillian, who was in the same prison as Anthony Ray Hinton.

I look forward to meeting you in the fall! Have a great summer
Dr. Cambre
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¹ Domestic policy is an administrative decision, law, or program that impacts issues within the nation's borders. Examples include healthcare, education, and police (law enforcement).