

# 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,<sup>1</sup> 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.

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**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 8<sup>th</sup>).**

## Part One:

Write a summary of Mr. Hinton's case. You should include the facts surrounding the crime and his arrest, the trial(s), and his appeals. How did Mr. Hinton finally obtain his release from prison? (Write enough so that I can tell that you actually read the book.)

## Part Two:

Research a recent news story (within the past year) that is similar to the one in the book. 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!)

## Part Three:

Read the following articles about Ledell Lee, a man executed in 2017. After his death, DNA evidence cleared him. What rights do accused individuals deserve? Should death penalty cases receive any greater scrutiny? Use this information in Part Four.

<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/>

## Part Four: What are your thoughts on the death penalty?

Explore the following websites:

<https://innocenceproject.org/> (Innocence Project)

<https://eji.org/> (Equal Justice Initiative—Bryan Stevenson's organization)

Turn in answers to the following questions:

-- Pick a side: Should the death penalty remain, or should we abolish it?

--Why do you believe the side you've chosen?

--Give evidence (examples are okay) from the research you've conducted. This is where you can incorporate information from parts 1-3 above.

--What would you say to the people who believe the other side of the argument? How do you address their concerns?

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

Dr. Cambre

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<sup>1</sup> 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).