

AP U.S. Government and Politics

Required Foundational Documents

THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

BRUTUS NO.1

To the Citizens of the State of New-York

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES (INCLUDING THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS)

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

FEDERALIST NO. 10

The Same Subject Continued: The Union as a Safeguard Against Domestic Faction and Insurrection

FEDERALIST NO. 51

The Structure of the Government Must Furnish the Proper Checks and Balances Between the Different Departments

FEDERALIST NO. 70

The Executive Department Further Considered

FEDERALIST NO. 78

The Judiciary Department

“LETTER FROM A BIRMINGHAM JAIL” (BY MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)

Required Supreme Court cases

MARBURY V. MADISON (1803)

In deciding this case about judicial appointments, the court established the principle of judicial review, empowering the Supreme Court to declare an act of the legislative or executive branch unconstitutional.

MCCULLOCH V. MARYLAND (1819)

In deciding this case about a national bank and state taxes, the court established supremacy of the U.S. Constitution and federal laws over state laws.

SCHENCK V. UNITED STATES (1919)

Speech creating a “clear and present danger” was not protected by the First Amendment and could be limited.

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION (1954)

Race-based school segregation violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

BAKER V. CARR (1962)

This case held that redistricting did not raise political questions, allowing federal courts to hear other cases that challenge redistricting plans that may violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

ENGEL V. VITALE (1962)

School sponsorship of religious activities violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

GIDEON V. WAINWRIGHT (1963)

In this case, the Sixth Amendment’s right to an attorney extends procedural due process protections to felony defendants in state courts.

TINKER V. DES MOINES INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT (1969)

A prohibition against public school students wearing black armbands in school to protest the Vietnam War violated the students’ freedom of speech protections in the First Amendment.

NEW YORK TIMES CO. V. UNITED STATES (1971)

This case bolstered the freedom of the press protections of the First Amendment, establishing a “heavy presumption against prior restraint” even in cases involving national security.

WISCONSIN V. YODER (1972)

Compelling Amish students to attend school past the eighth grade violates the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment.

SHAW V. RENO (1993)

Under the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, majority-minority districts, created under the Voting Rights Act of 1965, may be constitutionally challenged by voters if race is the only factor used in creating the district.

UNITED STATES V. LOPEZ (1995)

Congress exceeded its power under the Commerce Clause when it made possession of a gun in a school zone a federal crime.

MCDONALD V. CHICAGO (2010)

The Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms for self-defense is applicable to the states.

CITIZENS UNITED V. FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION (2010)

Political spending by corporations, associations, and labor unions is a form of protected speech under the First Amendment.

Source: Ap U.S. Government and Politics Course Examination Description (CED)