



AP US Government and Politics Summer Assignment

Summer Reading: all readings are in *The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity*, Sixth Edition; ISBN: 978-1-930398-19-1

- 1) Alexis Detocqueville, *Democracy in America* (pages 3-6, AND pages 85-89)
- 2) Cynthia Farrar, *Dinner with Democracy* (pages 7-13)
- 3) Robert Dahl, *Who Governs?* and *A Preface to Democratic Theory* (pages 39-45)

Assignment: Using the readings and a bit of outside research as evidence if needed, write a brief one-page (front and back maximum) paper on this topic:

“We the People” is the phrase that often comes to mind when thinking about American government. Many people believe that the United States has a democracy, while others believe it to be an oligarchy or a republic.

TASK: Develop an argument that discusses whether the United States has a democracy.

Questions to consider: What is democracy? Who has the power in a democracy? Who leads in a democracy?

Paper will be graded on the following:

Defensible thesis/claim that addresses the prompt (must have a line of reasoning; the “because”)	1 pt
Evidence – use at least two pieces of evidence from the reading(s) to support your thesis or claim	4 pts
Reasoning – explain why each piece of evidence links to the thesis or claim	2 pts
Citation – provide a works cited and in-text/footnotes in either MLA or Chicago format	1 pt

DUE the second class meeting in September

Questions? Difficulty finding the readings(s) ? Email Ms. Chan: cchan@gsbschool.org