**AP US Government**

**Readings 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 75, 76, 77**

*Doc 1: Alexis De Tocqueville – Democracy in America*

1. How are nations like children?
2. Why is the US unique?
3. What helps explain a nation’s laws, customs and opinions?
4. What is the most important bond that makes up a nation?
	1. What does this say about America today?
5. What idea did the early immigrants reject from Europe?
6. What kind of laws (and traditions) exists in America regarding land when the owner dies?
7. Explain Tocqueville’s opinion of wealth in America
8. What conclusion does the author make about equality in America?
9. What is the author saying in the last paragraph? Is this true?

*Doc 3: James Hunter – the Enduring Culture War?*

1. What is the heart of the “Culture War” argument?
2. What does the author imply is the real problem behind these “culture wars”?
3. What are the two “moral visions” of America that causes this conflict?
4. What percentage of Americans tends to be active in this culture war?
5. What happened in Gaston County, NC in the early 90s?
6. Who opposed it and why?
7. How did the “People For The American Way” become involved?
8. What was the result of this conflict?
9. What does the author say is responsible for this conflict? Who loses?

*Doc 4: C. Wright Mills – Power Elite*

1. According to the author, what are the three branched of the modern elite?
2. According to the author, do elites understand their role in American society?
3. What three institutions adapt to modern life in America?
4. Which elite group is the “largest and most expensive feature of government?”
5. Do these elites work together to manipulate society?

*Doc 5: Richard Zweigenhaft – Diversity in the Power Elite*

1. What is an “overclass”? Explain
2. Do the authors agree or disagree with Mills? Explain
3. How can the golf course be used as an anecdote to the elite in America?
4. How does Ed Brooke, Carol Mosley-Braun & Barak Obama represent the three different generations of African Americans?
5. According to the authors, has the changes in the elite also changed the distribution of wealth in America?

*Doc 6: Robert Dahl – Who Governs*

1. What governs? (elites, groups or the majority)
2. Are the ruling elites “enormously influential or “captives of their constituencies?” Explain
3. How does communication affect the interaction between the governed and the government?
4. When do politicians act?
5. According to the authors, “governmental decisions” are in response to what?
6. According to the authors, have we become more democratic over the decades? Explain

*Doc 75: Milton Friedman – Free to Choose*

1. Who is the father of modern economics? What did he write?
2. According to Friedman (and Adam Smith), what is the result of one pursuing his own interest?
3. Having economic and political power in the hands of the few is a “sure recipe” for what?
4. What freedom(s) do we loose with a large government? Explain.
5. How do unelected bureaucrats get power?
6. What does Friedman want added to the Bill of Rights?
7. What would this do?
8. What is the greatest threat to human freedom?

*Doc 76: David Wessel – Red Ink*

1. In 2011 how much money did the American government borrow per day?
2. How much was the interest? What is this the combined cost of?
3. Describe the two problems Elmendorf sees with the debt crisis? (bottom page 617)
4. What is Elmendorf’s solution?

*Doc 77: Michel Wucker – Lockout*

1. How does immigration keep inflation low?
2. Describe both sides of the immigration debate as shown in this excerpt. Are there any aspects of this issue that both sides agree with?