

## **AP Government – summer readings/assignment**

- I. Read (not skim, read – and enjoy!) *Hardball* by Chris Matthews.
- II. Do the assignment on *Hardball* – due the first day of school.
- III. Visit a Pasco County Commission meeting or New Port Richey City Council meeting this summer. Info is online as to meeting date, time, place. Get an agenda. Write a summary of one issue discussed.
- IV. Read the newspaper front section to see government and politics in action. Particularly look for articles on the Supreme Court and its decisions, Congress and policymaking or politics, the role of the president and the upcoming presidential election. Government and politics is much more current than other social studies classes – the newspaper and broadcast news is vital. Develop the habit now.
- V. Read the U.S. Constitution and have a copy (online) for your binder for next year. (for real)
- VI. Have a great summer!

The way to succeed in this class is to follow the syllabus and read the assigned work throughout the year! This is what colleges expect you to do.

\_\_\_\_\_ (name)

## **Hardball assignment – The Game of Politics for life**

**Due first day of school, 2007**

Briefly summarize each rule to the game of politics. Using a newspaper, choose two rules and give a current event example of each. Example: Rep. Bill Young of St. Petersburg makes sure there is federal highway money to maintain and improve U.S. 19 in the state of Florida. It was recently six-laned in Pinellas County – All Politics is Local

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**Rule**

**Summary**

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**It's not who you know,  
It's who you get to know.**

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**All Politics is Local**

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**It's Better to Receive  
Than to Give**

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**Dance with the One  
That Brung Ya**

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**Keep Your Enemies in  
Front of You**

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**Don't Get Mad; Don't  
Get Even; Get Ahead**

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**Leave No Shot  
Unanswered**

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**Only Talk When It  
Improves the Silence**

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**Always Concede  
On Principle**

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**Hang a Lantern on  
Your Problem**

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**Spin!**

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**The Press is the Enemy**

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**The Reputation of Power**

Wabashing  
Play your strengths  
When you're in a hole;  
    stop digging  
Lowballing  
Sandbagging  
Create new commandments  
Passing the buck  
Inchon landings

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**Positioning**

Triangulation