

AP US Government
Required Documents

9 Key Foundational Documents

August 17, 2018 Mr. Beck (Sandia High School, Albuquerque, NM)

Below are the nine foundational documents you will need to know and understand:

1. Declaration of Independence (1776)
2. The Articles of Confederation (1777)
3. Federalist 10 – Control of factions- Madison
4. Federalist 51– checks and balances and separation of powers among the three branches of government- Madison
5. Federalist 70– Rationale for a strong executive- Hamilton
6. Federalist 78– Rationale for an impartial judiciary- Hamilton
7. Brutus 1– concern over ratification of Constitution- ???
8. The Constitution of the United States (1787)
9. Letter From a Birmingham Jail; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1963)

15 Key Supreme Court Cases

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Below are the 15 key Supreme Court cases you need to know and understand:

1. Marbury v. Madison (1803)- [Established doctrine of Judicial Review](#)
2. McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)- [Established Federalism \(national over state\)](#)
3. Schenck v. U.S. (1919)- [Restriction of freedom of speech](#)
4. Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954)- [Overturned Plessy v. Ferguson and integrated school systems](#)
5. Baker v. Carr (1961)- [Federal courts can intervene in Congressional redistricting](#)
6. Engel v. Vitale (1962)- [Unconstitutional to force school prayer](#)
7. Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)- [Indigent defendants must be provided counsel \(lawyer\)](#)
8. Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District (1969)- [Students have 1st Amendment rights in a school setting \(wearing armbands\)](#)
9. New York Times v. U.S. (1971)- ["Pentagon Papers trial"; U.S. violated 1st Amendment rights of freedom of the press to NYT](#)
10. Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972)-[Children cannot be placed under compulsory education after the 8th grade](#)
11. Roe v. Wade (1973)- [Legalized abortion](#)
12. Shaw v. Reno (1993)- [Prohibited discriminatory Congressional redistricting](#)
13. U.S. v. Lopez (1995)- [Reduced the Congressional scope of the Commerce Clause](#)
14. McDonald v. Chicago (2010)-[Affirmed the 2nd Amendment right to bear arms to the states](#)
15. Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)-[Confirmed 1st Amendment freedom of speech rights to corporations, unions and nonprofits- no limits on contributions](#)