

11th Grade - APUSH

- Please read Robert Dahl's *How Democratic is the American Constitution* over the course of the summer (ISBN-10: 0300095244 ISBN-13: 978-0300095241). This book should essentially force you to ask more questions than provide satisfying answers. Dahl challenges the perceived infallibility of the U.S. Constitution, highlights some of its limits, provides oft-neglected historical context for the “framers,” and suggests potential solutions to modernize a document written over 200 years ago. Hopefully, Dahl’s examination will challenge you, evoke some reactions to his argument, and help you appreciate the difficulty of examining your own national history that is (like all others) steeped in myth and exceptionalism. You don’t have to agree with everything he is saying, but he should evoke some thoughtful disagreement. There is no writing assignment over the summer, but be prepared to discuss the book in the first couple of classes.
- As you read, consider Dahl’s argument in the context of the modern US political climate, and the current challenges this democracy faces. Spend a little time researching one of the following topics (reading reliable online news articles):
 - COVID-19 Pandemic
 - US racial tensions and Black Lives Matter movement
 - Congressional partisan legislative gridlock
 - Voting Accessibility in the US

As you research one of these areas, consider Dahl’s critique of the US political system, and how these issues are affected by the concerns he highlighted.

- Also - please subscribe and listen to at least one American history/politics podcast of your choice! This is an excellent way to absorb content information that will be invaluable to success in APUSH! You can find many of them on Apple iTunes & Podcasts, and should be free!