Agenda for AP Summer Institute: US Government and Politics

Day One
On day one, we will get oriented to the course as a whole, and how to organize it in a semester and year-long framework. We’ll talk about the syllabus audit process, and experience some student-centered activities you can use in the classroom to teach Constitutional Underpinnings as well as Political Parties, Elections and Mass Media. We’ll also begin a discussion of best practices for teaching FRQ writing.

Day Two
We’ll continue with major concepts and materials for an election simulation you can use in your class, and we’ll model Socratic Seminar with discussion using an article that brings together many core concepts in the class. We’ll explore Institutions of Government and economic policy-making with two more student-centered simulations, and we’ll continue to analyze FRQs using questions from the 2017 exam.

Day Three
We’ll dive into materials for a legislative simulation and mock Supreme Court simulation, using historic cases covered in the Civil liberties and Civil Rights part of the exam. Additionally we’ll discuss textbooks to use as well as other core readings to use with students, and will discuss theories of political representation with another discussion strategy.

Day Four
We’ll discuss the multiple choice section of the exam and best practices to teach students. Additionally, we’ll discuss using guiding questions to frame units, and one idea for an engaging way to begin the course. We discuss review strategies, and how to use instructional planning reports and other resources for reflection and revision in the course.