Dr. Keller

AP US Government and Politics

**AP US Government and Politics Summer Assignment- The Nine**

Directions: As you read the book, consider the following questions. You do **not** need to write them down, or submit the answers. There will be an open-ended quiz on the book the first day of class.

**Part II of the summer assignment is on the last page of this document. Please submit your answers to those questions.**

**Define:**

*Writ of Certiorari* (Granting Cert)

Precedent

*Amicus Brief*

**Prologue and Chapter 1:**

In what ways are justices insulated from public opinion?

Describe the relationships of the justices. What surprised you the most?

Define judicial restraint and judicial activism.

**Chapter 2:**

Who was William Rehnquist?

How did the controversy surrounding Clarence Thomas’ confirmation hearings impact the Court?

**Chapter 3:**

*“Unlike the other branches of government, the courts, even the justices of the Supreme Court, cannot simply decide to take action on an issue of importance to them. They must wait until a case happens to move through the lower courts in a way that raises the issue”* (page 36). Choose two examples throughout this chapter or the book that illustrate this point.

**Chapter 4:**

What is a living Constitution? How do/did the different justices interpret the Constitution? Provide two examples that illustrate this point.

**Chapter 5:**

What qualities was President Clinton looking for in a Supreme Court nominee? Who did he eventually choose and why?

**Chapters 6-7:**

Compare and contrast the nomination processes of Ginsburg and Breyer.

**Chapter 8:**

Provide two examples of how Clarence Thomas distinguished himself from the other justices. Look up a case decided this term- what was Justice Thomas’ opinion? Were you surprised based on the reading? Why/why not?

**Chapters 9-10:**

How were evangelicals able to make policy through the court? Provide 2-3 examples.

**Chapters 11-13:**

Why does the author feel the Court handled itself in an unprofessional manner in *Bush v. Gore?*

Do you agree with the actions and ultimate decision of the court in   
*Bush v. Gore?* Explain.

**Chapters 13-15:**

What can you learn about judicial decision making from these chapters? Cite 2 specific examples to support your argument.

**Chapters 16-18:**

How did 9/11 impact the justices?

What was decided in the *Hamdi* case? Do you agree? Explain.

**Chapter 19:**

Explain the tension between the states, people, Congress, Executive Branch, and Supreme Court that is mentioned in this chapter. How did the justices react to this tension?

**Chapters 20-24:**

What considerations went into nominating a Supreme Court justice by President Bush? What disqualified Gonzales? Were you surprised by this? Explain.

Briefly explain the vetting and nomination process of a Supreme Court justice as described in the book.

**Chapter 25, Epilogue, and overarching questions:**

How do the American people impact the Court?

**Part II:** Listen to the following podcast on More Perfect (a podcast). Link: <https://www.wnycstudios.org/story/more-perfect-sex-appeal>. I recommend listening to it on your phone. Answer the following:

1. What issue did the 19th Amendment fix?
2. What was the Equal Rights Amendment? Why did some support the ERA?
3. Explain the facts of the “beer case”. How were women involved?
4. Why did Ruth Bader Ginsburg choose this case? How was the case ultimately decided? Why?
5. How did this case ultimately benefit women?