

Welcome to AP U.S. Government and Politics!

For the summer reading selection, please read the following book:

Hinton, Anthony Ray. (2018). *The sun does shine: How I found life and freedom on Death Row*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

ISBN: 978-1-250-20579-7

This is the story of Anthony Ray Hinton, a man convicted of capital murder in Alabama in 1985. He spent 30 years on Alabama's Death Row, including several years after he proved his innocence. This book takes a look not only at the reality of prison life, but some of the ways Mr. Hinton tried to survive his incarceration.

In this course we will look at the government and its role in issues of domestic policy,¹ which includes law enforcement and punishment. We also work on argumentative essay writing, a key component of the AP examination next May. For this assignment, I ask that you read the book, answer the following questions, and be prepared to write an argumentative essay when we begin school in August. It's not difficult, but you must articulate a point and support it with evidence from a text. This probably sounds familiar, right?

After reading the book, please type your responses to the following prompts—to turn in the second day of school (Thursday, August 10th).

Part One:

Write a summary of Mr. Hinton's case. You should include the facts surrounding the crime and his arrest, the trial(s), and his appeals. How did Mr. Hinton finally obtain his release from prison? (Write enough so that I can tell that you actually read the book.)

Part Two:

Research a recent news story (within the past year) that is similar to the one in the book. **Turn in a copy of the news story and a one-paragraph written summary** including the facts of the events, how it is similar (or different) to the case in the book, and your thoughts on the issue. ****Make sure your article is about a person, NOT about the death penalty or wrongful incarceration in general.**

Part Three:

What are your thoughts on the death penalty? Should it remain, or should we abolish it? **Write a paragraph (minimum 5-6 sentences) supporting your position.** Use evidence from one of the articles you've read, the Hinton book, or any other sources you choose. Visit these websites for additional stories:

<https://innocenceproject.org/ledell-lee-what-you-should-know-about-his-case-and-execution/>

<https://innocenceproject.org/> (Innocence Project)

<https://eji.org/> (Equal Justice Initiative—Bryan Stevenson's organization)

Start your paragraph with one of the following starters:

- The death penalty should be abolished because...
- The death penalty should not be abolished because...

Then, add evidence from the Hinton book, the article you read, and/or the above websites to support your argument.

****Want more? Watch the movie "Just Mercy" starring Jamie Foxx and Michael B. Jordan (streams on Amazon Prime). OR, read the book of the same name written by Bryan Stevenson, the attorney who helped the release of Mr. Hinton.**

I look forward to meeting you in the fall! Have a great summer ☺

Dr. Cambre

bcambre@lsu.edu

¹ Domestic policy is an administrative decision, law, or program that impacts issues within the nation's borders. Examples include healthcare, education, and police (law enforcement).