

US AP Government Review: What Do I Really Know?

Vocabulary Self-Assessment & Exam Preparation

Course: AP U.S. Government & Politics

Grade Level: 11–12

Lesson Type: Review Diagnostic / Metacognitive Activity

Time Frame: 1 class period

Assessment: Completion Credit Only

SCHOLARFORGE OVERVIEW

This activity helps students **diagnose their readiness** for the AP Government exam by evaluating their familiarity with key vocabulary. Students use color-coding to identify terms they know well, terms that need review, and terms they do not recognize.

The goal is not grading accuracy, but helping students **prioritize their review time effectively**.

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Purpose

This activity is designed to:

- Encourage honest self-assessment
- Promote student-directed review
- Reduce exam anxiety
- Provide teachers with informal diagnostic data

How to Use This Activity




Step 1: Introduce the Activity (5 minutes)

Explain to students:

- This is **not a test**
- It is graded for **completion only**
- Honesty is essential for it to be useful

Step 2: Color-Coding Instructions (10–15 minutes)

Students will use **three different highlighters**:

-  **Green** – “I know this term well and could explain it”
-  **Yellow** – “I recognize this term but need review”
-  **Red** – “I do not know this term or cannot recall it”

Step 3: Reflection & Planning (10 minutes)

Ask students to:

- Count how many terms fall into each category
- Identify patterns (courts? elections? federalism?)
- Create a short personal review plan

Teacher Tip

Collecting these (even briefly) helps you:

- Spot class-wide weak areas
- Adjust review pacing
- Target mini-lessons effectively






STUDENT HANDOUT

US AP Government Review: What Do I Really Know?

Directions

You will review a list of key AP Government terms.
Using **three different highlighters**, color-code each term:

-  **Green** – I know this term well
-  **Yellow** – I recognize it but need review
-  **Red** – I do not know this term

Be honest — this is for **your benefit**, not a grade.

Key AP Government Terms

Popular sovereignty
Precedent
President pro tempore
Presidential ticket
Primary election
Prior restraint
Procedural due process
Progressive tax
Property rights
Proportional representation
Public opinion
Public policy
Quid pro quo
Random sample
Realigning election
Reapportionment
Redistricting
Regressive tax
Regulation
Reinforcing cleavages
Representative democracy
Restrictive covenant
Revolving door
Safe seat
Sedition
Selective incorporation

Senatorial courtesy
Seniority rule
Separation of powers
Single-member district
Social Security
Socialism
Soft money
Sound bites
Speaker
Standing committee
Stare decisis
State of the Union Address
State's rights
Statism
Substantive due process
Suffrage
The Federalist
Theocracy
Three-fifths compromise
Treaty
Trust
Turnout
Unemployment
Unfunded mandates
Veto
Virginia Plan
Voter registration
Vouchers
Whip
Winner-take-all system
Women's suffrage
Writ of certiorari
Writ of mandamus
Writ of habeas corpus