

\*\*\*\*\*Please read the Assignment before you start reading the book\*\*\*\*\*

## AP Government Summer Reading Assignment

**Book:** *Hardball* (Revised Edition)

**Author:** Chris Matthews

**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster; November 2, 1999

For more information on the book click here: <http://www.amazon.com/Hardball-Politics-Played-Told-Knows/dp/0684845598> (You can also find it at the library or at Half Price Books for a cheap price.)

For your summer project you will read *Hardball* by Chris Matthews and complete Assignments 1, 2 & 3 described below. All assignments will be **DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS-NO EXCEPTIONS**

### **Background**

Chris Matthews has worked in and around politics for over three decades as a Senate aid, Representative advisor, presidential speech writer, political commentator, author, and talk show host. His book offers an entertaining, first-hand account of the politics that take place in Washington. As a perspective AP Government student *Hardball* will be a useful introduction to the inner workings of policy-making and some of the numerous factors that play a part in politics. This assignment is designed to make you a critical/analytical reader-a skill that will benefit you in all your classes.

### **Assignment 1**

Choose **10** quotes from the *next* page and analyze each by answering the following questions:

- On what page is the quote found?
- Who wrote/said the quote?
- What is the **context**?
- Rewrite the quote in your own words
- What is the meaning, message, and/or point of the quote? Aka Explain the quote in depth

### **Assignment 2**

Pick out 10 political terms from the text.

- Put the page #
- Define the term

### **Assignment 3**

After you have finished analyzing 10 quotes of your choice you will write a **1 page** (double-spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1' margins) personal review and analysis of the book. The review should be your personal opinion, not a book report (I've read the book and therefore don't need any summaries). Instead focus on:

- What did you like?
- What did you dislike?

- What did you learn?
- What did you think were some of the most important themes and messages?
- Did Matthews seem biased towards anything or anyone in the book?
- What is Matthews' tone throughout the book?
- What connections did you make while reading the book?

\*\*\*The questions above are here to help you. You can answer as many or as few as you like

### **Quotes for Assignment 1**

\*\*\*\*\*Please be familiar with these quotes *before* you start reading so you can identify them as you read instead of having to go back and find them\*\*\*\*\*

1. "He's not going to win. It's a republican district. He'd be better for us if he loses. He'll work for me. He'll bring his organization with him."
2. No, Ronald Reagan is a man of the media: the Great Wholesaler ... he was positioning himself with enormous science, establishing himself in the public mind not as an aloof head of government but as the man next door. Every action was designed to make him appear close to the people and distant from the government.
3. "I've lived across the street from you for 18 years ... I shoveled your walk in winter. I cut your grass in summer ... I didn't think I had to ask you for your vote. He never forgot her response. 'Tom, I want you to know something: people like to be asked.'"
4. "Better to have them p....n' inside the tent than outside p....n' in."
5. ... the elections of 1994 were a rough slap in the face. His party lost control of both houses of Congress for the first time since 1954 ... Rather than join his fellow Democrats in defeat, he took advisor Dick Morris's advice ... "parroting the rhetoric of the congressional Democrats would merely be sharing the storm cellar with them ... Adopting the Republican agenda begged the question. The president needed to take a position that blended the best of each party's position."
6. "... His message came across clear and appealing ... He described America as a country 'where no Catholic prelate would tell the President -- should he be a Catholic - how to act and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote. This is a country where religious liberty is so indivisible that an act against one Church is treated as an act against all.'"
7. "Florida Senator, Lawton Chiles, rejected the well-tailored dark blue suit so fashionable in D.C. 'When I dress like that, no one comes up to me in the airport to say hello.'"
8. "We succeed in enterprises which demand the positive qualities we possess, but we excel at those which also make use of our defects"...(relate to Ed Muskie)

9. The waiter said, "Well, maybe you don't know who I am." "Well, as a matter of fact, I don't ... who are you" "I'm the guy who's in charge of the butter."

10. "Cry Baby", screamed the headline of the *New York Daily News* above a picture of Newt in diapers. "Newt's Tantrum: He closed down the government because Clinton made him sit at the back of the plane."

11. "Don't give it all at once. Give five thousand at the start and indicate they can come back for more if they need it. Halfway through the campaign, they'll be back. This time give them another five thousand and indicate that is all you intend to contribute. About a week before the election, they'll be some desperate for money that someone will suggest that maybe you can be induced to come to the rescue..."

12. "It's been said that I'm not the most compelling speaker, and there are actually those who claim that I don't always communicate in the clearest, most concise way. Well, I may not be the most eloquent ... and I may sometimes be a little awkward ... but there is nothing self-conscious in my love of country. I am a quiet man, but I hear the quiet people others don't. The ones who raise a family, pay the taxes, met the mortgages."

13. "JFK would call 5 or 6 ... LBJ would take 19 names and call them all."

14. "The purpose of the war room was not just to respond to Republican attacks ... It was to respond to them fast, even before they were broadcasted or published, when the lead of the story was still rolling around in the reporter's mind..."