

American Government / Honors American Government **2008-2009 Summer Reading Assignments**

American Government

- Read *Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Patillo Beals.
- We will have a quiz on the book the first day of class.
- Write a one page reflection of the book, answering the question: What insights does this book give you into race relations in the 1950s? This essay requires no additional research, but does need to be in correct MLA format. Your paper's thesis statement should briefly and concisely answer this question, while the body of your paper will provide evidence and your explanation/interpretation of that evidence. Remember that all evidence from *Warriors Don't Cry* (whether a direct quote or a paraphrase) must be correctly cited in your paper.

Honors American Government

- Read *A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution* by Carol Berkin. Also read *The Constitution* (there is a copy in the back of the Berkin book). **
- We will have a quiz on *A Brilliant Solution* and the Constitution the first day of class.
- Write a one page reflection of the book. Questions to answer: What is Berkin's main argument? What are the strengths of this book? The weaknesses? What insights does this book give into the Constitutional Convention and the Constitution? Does this book address any misconceptions you may have had regarding the Convention? This essay requires no additional research, but does need to be in correct MLA format. Your paper's thesis statement should briefly and concisely answer this question, while the body of your paper will provide evidence and your explanation/interpretation of that evidence. Remember that all evidence from *A Brilliant Solution* (whether a direct quote or a paraphrase) must be correctly cited in your paper.
- Save a copy of paper on your hard drive, flash drive, or disc; you will be submitting it to Turnitin.com once school begins. Anything over 24% copied is too high!

**Approximately 50 pages in the back give details about the delegates to the Convention. You are not required to read these short biographical summaries, but they are interesting.