Origins of American Government
Assignment Sheet

Standards: 2a-2e

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the political philosophies that shaped the development of Virginia and United States Constitutional governments.

Essential Questions:

- What elements of the U.S. constitutional system evolved from Athens and Rome?
- What elements of the U.S. Constitution are derived from the Magna Carta, English Petition of Rights and the English Bill of Rights?
- What were the fundamental principles of American government and law developed by leading European political thinkers?
- Why are the charters of the Virginia Company of London significant?
- How are the natural rights philosophies expressed by John Locke and Jean-Jacques Rousseau reflected in the Declaration of Independence?

Essential Skills:

- Analyze primary and secondary source documents.
- Distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information.
- Evaluate information for accuracy.
- Select and defend positions in writing, discussion and debate

Assignment:

Part 1. Text:

1. Read Chapter # (the government text book chapter(s) that covers the Colonial period and our English political heritage).
2. Prepare a bullet point chapter summary including all of the relevant information. The summary must be typed and double spaced. The length of the summary will vary depending on the level of detail included, however, a minimum of two (2) pages is considered acceptable.
3. Write brief answers to the Essential Questions. The chapter summary may be used as a resource.
**Origins of American Government**

**Assignment Sheet**

**Part 2. Application:**

1. Acting on the request of the Founding Fathers, your firm will create an advertising campaign for one of the following documents:
   - The Magna Carta
   - The English Bill of Rights
   - The Mayflower Compact and the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut.
   - Two Treatises of Government

2. Your ad campaign should showcase your group’s creativity but must include the following:
   - A brief history of the document(s) including the author(s), dates, country of origin, and reason(s) the document was written.
   - A list of the most important points of the document, including the reasons it is considered to be a landmark document.
   - A clear statement of how the document relates to the United States government.
   - Select one member to act as the primary sales person during the oral presentation. However, all members of the team must be present and have an active role in that presentation.
   - A typed, double spaced summary of the required items.