

Advanced Placement US Government Summer Reading

Hardball by Chris Matthews

In an effort to focus your thinking politically rather than historically, your task this summer is a careful reading of the book *Hardball* by Chris Matthews, host of the MSNBC show of the same name. Should you have questions about the assignment, feel free to email me at drew.baker@chca-oh.org I check my email frequently and will respond as quickly as possible to your questions.

Assignment

In the book *Hardball*, Chris Matthews defines the title term:

Hardball is clean, aggressive Machiavellian politics. It is the discipline of gaining and holding power, useful to any profession or undertaking, but practiced most openly and unashamedly in the world of public affairs.

Matthews supports his observations and conclusions with quotes from a variety of sources. Below is a list of **political maxims** from *Hardball* and a series of **quotes** from the book. Your task is to choose any **FIVE** quotes, and for each quote address parts **A** and **B**:

A. Describe the **context** of the quote, giving appropriate details including the **page number**, the **speaker** and **background** of the quote.

AND

B. Explain and analyze its meaning using one of the listed **political maxims**.

Political Maxims-

- *What've ya done for me lately?*
- *Triangulation*
- *Dance with the one that brung ya.*
- *Don't get mad; Don't get even; Get ahead*
- *Hang a lantern on your problem*
- *Only talk when it improves the silence*
- *All politics is local*
- *It's better to receive than to give*
- *Keep your enemies in front of you*
- *Leave no shot unanswered*
- *Politics=power*
- *Retail politics*

Quotes-

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. *"...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 the winter. I cut your grass in the 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. *"Florida Senator, Lawton Chiles, rejected the well-tailored dark blue suit so fashionable in DC. 'When I dress like that, no one comes up to me in the airport to say hello.'"*
7. *"'Cry Baby', screamed the headlines 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.'"*
8. *"...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.'"*
9. *"JFK would call 5 or 6...LBJ would take 19 names and call them all."*
10. *"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..."*

The papers you turn in will be typed, 12 font, double-spaced, times new roman and will be at least 1,000 words in length. Each quote will have its own quote listed at the top for the title of each page. In essence you are turning in five one page papers.

Any questions e-mail Mr. Baker at Drew.Baker@CHCA-Oh.org.

The paper is due on the second day of class.