AP United States History *Group Seminar Instructions: Washington and Adams Years*
Mr. Broach, 2010-2011

Preparation: **MUST BE DONE BEFORE CLASS:**

To prepare for this seminar, you should do the following:

- Read Kennedy's Chapter 10 (and refer to the PowerPoint outline online)
- Review the Chapter Themes for Chapter 10 online (textbook's website)
- Review the "discussion questions" below to prepare what you will discuss

Group Seminar Instructions:

Step 1. Choose a **moderator** for your group who will coordinate the discussion.
Choose a **scribe** for your group who will jot notes on participation and any other useful information for the rest of the group.

Step 2. Discuss the topics. Your group must discuss the **MAJOR TOPICS** listed below. To help direct the discussion or understanding what to discuss, I have also included "**discussion questions**" below.

Step 3. Each group member is to complete an evaluation form.

MAJOR TOPICS TO DISCUSS:

- Washington's administration – why his presidency is significant; customs and traditions
- Hamilton's Financial Program and the development of political parties
- Whiskey Rebellion (significance)
- Foreign problems and neutrality
- Washington's Farewell Address
- John Adams' election in 1796 and his administration
- Foreign problems in the Adams Years → Alien & Sedition Acts controversy
- The Quasi War with France and its implications
- What conflicts with Native Americans are taking place at this time?

Discussion Questions that may help focus your discussion of the above topics:

- What were the most important issues facing the new federal government, and how did the Washington administration address them?
- Why did Hamilton move so rapidly to create large financial commitments by the federal government? Since we normally think of the "federal debt" as something bad, why did Hamilton think of it as something good and necessary for the national welfare?
- How sympathetic should Revolutionary Americans have been to the king-killing French?
- How wise was Washington's insistence on neutrality?
- How did the debate over Jay's Treaty illustrate a growing political divide between Americans?
- Why were political parties viewed as so dangerous by the Founding Fathers? Why did parties come into being at all, and why did they come to be accepted as legitimate ways to express political disagreement?
- What is the significance of Washington's Farewell Address?
- What role did domestic politics and economic realities play in establishing an American foreign policy? How should American diplomats interact with European governments? Consider the fact that some Americans do not want diplomats to follow standard European protocol.
- How did divisions over foreign policy create the poisonous political atmosphere that produced both the Alien and Sedition Acts and the Virginia and Kentucky Resolves?
- How were the Federalists and Democratic-Republicans different?
- How did John Adams strive to prevent an all-out war with France?