

AP United States History Summer Assignments 2014

Dear AP USH Students,

Welcome to AP United States History. This is a challenging course in which you will learn about the story of the United States while also learning how to think like an historian. Your summer assignment is designed to get you started. Completing it will be helpful for starting the fall strong!

Your summer assignments are due the first week of school.

Please complete these **three** assignments over the summer:

1. **Read the article *The Use of Myth in History* by Gil Klein.** You can find this article online at <http://www.history.org/Foundation/journal/summer12/myths.cfm> or you can pick up a copy of the article from Ms. Larsen, Ms. Worthington or from our school library.
 - a. **Respond to the article by writing a 1 page reflection about myths you have learned in United States History** – from school, media, or movies.

2. **Watch a historical film.** Choose one movie from the list provided.
 - a. **Write a Historical Film Analysis that answers the following questions:**
 - Film Title, Date of Production and Director
 - List major characters and the actors that portray them.
 - What is the historical event portrayed in the film?
 - What are the approximate dates covered in the film?
 - Are any historical consultants listed in the credits? If so, who?
 - What is the main plot or action of the film?
 - How historically accurate is the film? Explain. (You will need to do some research to answer this question correctly.)
 - What historical myths are perpetuated by the film?
 - In your opinion, of what use is this film in showing or explaining an historical event, figure, or time period? Explain at least two specific parts of the film that support your opinion.

3. **Read a historical nonfiction book. Choose one book from the list provided.**
 - a. **BEFORE beginning** to read the book, write down what you “know” and what you believe about the person or people whose biography (history) you are about to read. Then read the book.
 - b. **AFTER reading** the book write an essay that addresses the “Big Picture” question of **“What does the author argue with regard to his/her subject matter and why does it matter in US history?”** Capture the essence of the author’s central argument. Make sure to use specific evidence from the book to support your response. Address the

following questions in your essay as they relate to the “big picture” question. Unfold the layers of the “big picture” question as if they were parts of an onion. Weave in your thoughts on these questions and supply specific evidence to support your position.

- Before reading the book, what did you “know” or believe about the person or person’s and their role in the founding of the nation? (What myths have you heard?)
- What have you learned from this book that is new to you?)What myths does the author debunk?)
- What are the most interesting things you learned from reading this book?
- What questions does this book leave you considering?

Extra Just For Fun: Watch history shows on the History Channel or PBS. One fun show is *How the States got their Shapes*. Come to school next year knowing some history trivia.

AP United States History Film List

- Argo
- A Soldier's Story
- All the King's Men
- Amistad
- Apocalypse Now! (1979)
- All the President's Men (1976)
- Citizen Kane
- Fat Man, Little Boy
- Frost-Nixon
- Glory
- Gone with the Wind (1939)
- Good Night and Good Luck
- Grapes of Wrath (1940)
- In the Heat of the Night (1968)
- Inherit the Wind
- Iron Angels
- Lincoln
- Little Big Man (1970)
- Norma Rae
- Patton (1970)
- Silkwood
- The China Syndrome
- The Fog of War
- The Good Shepherd
- The Great Debaters
- The Last of the Mohicans (1992)
- The Patriot
- The Crucible (1996)
- The Right Stuff (1983)
- Tombstone
- Truman
- United 93
- Wall Street
- Warm Springs
- Wind Talkers
- Zero Dark Thirty

AP United States History Book List

- Lincoln Enigma by Gabor Boritt, Oxford Press, 2002
- Varina Davis by Joan Cashin, Belknap Press of Harvard University, 2006**
- Mary Todd Lincoln by Jean Baker, WW Norton and Company, 2008
- The Gettysburg Gospel by Gabor Boritt, Simon & Schuster, 2006**
- Bound for Canaan by Fergus M. Bordewich, Amistad Press, 2005**
- Agent of Destiny: The Life and Times of Gen. Winfield Scott by John Eisenhower, The Free Press, 1997**
- A Different Mirror: A Multicultural History of America by Ronald Takaki, Back Bay Books, 1993**
- The Class of 1846 by John C. Waugh, Ballantine, 1994**
- Bound for the Promised Land by Kate Clifford Larson, Ballantine, 2005**
- The Memory of the Civil War in American Culture edited by Alice Fahs & Joan Waugh, Chapel Hill, 2004**
- Manifest Destiny's Underworld: Filibustering in Antebellum America by Robert E. May, University of North Carolina Press, 2004**
- Sisters: The Lives of America's Suffragists by Jean Baker, Hill & Wang, 2006**
- The Impending Crisis: 1848-1861 by David Potter, HarperPerennial, 1977**
- Andrew Carnegie by David Nasaw, Penguin, 2007**
- The Tycoons: How Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, Jay Gould, & J.P. Morgan Invented the American Supereconomy by Charles R. Morris, Holt Paperbacks, 2006**
- Confederates in the Attic by Tony Horwitz, Vintage Departures, 1998**
- Midnight Rising by Tony Horwitz, Henry Holt and Co., 2011
- Civil War Wives by Carol Berkin, Random House, 2009
- V Was for Victory by John Morton Blum, Harcourt Brace and Com., 1976**
- The Good War by Studs Terkel, Ballantine Books, 1984**
- The Fifties by David Halberstam, Fawcett Books, 1993**
- The Best and Brightest by David Halberstam, Ballantine Books, 1993**
- President Kennedy: Profile of Power by Richard Reeves, Simon and Schuster, 1994**
- Glory and the Dream by William Manchester, Bantam, 1984**
- No Ordinary Time by Doris Kearns Goodwin, Simon and Schuster, 1995**
- Woman of Valor: Margaret Sanger and the Birth Control Movement in America, Ellen Chesler, Simon and Schuster, 2007**
- Theodore Rex by Edmund Morris, Modern Library, 2002**
- March of Folly by Barbara Tuchman, Ballantine Books, 1985**
- Nixonland by Rick Perlstein, Scribner, 2009**
- The Day of Battle by Rick Atkinson, Henry Holt & Co., 2007
- An Army at Dawn by Rick Atkinson, Holt, 2007**
- Rumor of War by Philip Caputo, Holt, 1996**
- In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam by Brian VanDeMark and Robert S. McNamara, Vintage, 1996**
- All the President's Men by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, Pocket, 2005**
- Counselor: A Life at the Edge of History by Ted Sorenson, Harper, 2008**
- The Fifties: Women's Oral History by Brett Harvey, Universe, 2002**
- Crusade: The Untold Story of the Persian Gulf War by Rick Atkinson, Mariner, 1994**
- The Brethren: Inside the Supreme Court by Bob Woodward and Scott Armstrong, Simon and Schuster, 2005**
- The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson, Vintage Books, 2011

***available in the CHS library*