

APUSH SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2021

AP US history is one of the best history courses you can take in high school. Although many people feel that history is simply lists of names, places, and dates to be memorized, I believe that the discipline of history is an *interpretation* of evidence. It is a collection of stories that defines our humanity, the way we govern, the way we respond to those in need and power....Documents and artifacts help us understand those things but can only be understood through the lens of personal knowledge and experience. Every piece of evidence is capable of varying interpretations.

For your summer assignment, please complete the following.

Assignment Part 1– Personal Reflection

Read the following quote:

“Anyone reading history should understand from the start that there is no such thing as impartial history” – Howard Zinn, *Declarations of Independence*

Write a 1-2 page typed reflection describing whether or not you agree with the above statement. Make sure you use evidence to support your argument. You may give examples of a personal nature (things you have read, seen in a documentary, etc.) or any previous knowledge of history you may have. (PS- This can include World History or even Freshman year.) Be specific in your *analysis and support* of your argument. This year, as an AP class, we will work on defending our beliefs through evidence. The lowest form of intelligence comes from opinion-based argument- we will be working this year on defending our claims using historical evidence.

Also, please be sure to address how we can learn US history this year in the most impartial way possible- Sources, methods, disciplined research and using reliable sources, etc. How do we know that the history we learn is correct and true? How do we look for bias? Please explain.

Assignment Part 2 - Teacher Inquiry

Please write a list of topics in US history that are particularly interesting to you. If you could design a US history course, what topics, people, events, etc. would you pay special attention to? A bulleted list is fine. You should have at least 10 topics included on your list, and you should use a couple of sentences for each event to describe WHY you chose them. You should have 2-3 sentences at least per topic explaining what fascinates you about it, or why you think we should spend time learning about it.

LOGISTICS:

- All papers must be turned in the **FIRST DAY OF CLASS!!!** If you turn in the paper late, there will be a substantial late deduction, without a Signed note from Guidance stating that you joined the class late in summer.
- Typed papers only please - 12 pt font, Times New Roman, double spaced.
- EACH part of the assignment is 50 points, for a total of 100 points.
- Please be ready to share with your classmates your opinions and thoughts about the above 2 parts. Please contact me with any questions. Have a great summer! **Mrs. Lynnette McGiffen**

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