

Summer Reading Assignment - Advanced Placement U. S. History

Your summer homework consists of reading specific chapters from *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn. This is an individual assignment. You will receive information on how to upload your assignment to Turn It In (a website to check the authenticity of your paper) the first week of school. You will not receive credit for the homework if you do not upload the assignment to this site. Any work that appears to be copied in any way from another person or any other sources will not receive any credit and you will be reported to the IB coordinator for academic dishonesty.

A printed copy of this assignment is DUE the first day of school.

A People's History of the United States: 1492-Present by Howard Zinn

This book may be checked out from the school library in May, or you may purchase the book at a local bookstore, or read it on-line. If you purchase the book you will be able to highlight important passages and make notes in the margins. This book will help you with the IB senior history class as well. The book can be found online at: <http://www.historyisaweapon.com/zinnapeopleshistory.html>

Zinn is used in many AP U.S. history classes in order to provide a counterbalance to traditional history texts. Your job as a student of history is to analyze, interpret, and evaluate various viewpoints regarding the past. In the essays you write for this class you will be evaluated on how well you analyze, interpret, and evaluate, as well as support your interpretation of history with reliable historical sources.

Assignment: You are to complete A-D (see below) for **each** of the chapters in *A People's History* **listed below**. I will be using the chapter numbers from the 1999 edition in the school library. Pay attention to the **chapter titles** rather than the chapter numbers if you have a different edition.

For each chapter:

- A. **Thesis Statement:** Write one or two sentences that you feel form a good THESIS for the chapter. In other words, what is Zinn's argument for this chapter?
- B. **Evidence used:** Examine the evidence that Zinn uses to support this thesis. State what you think are the five most convincing points made in this chapter **and explain** why you think each point is important in proving Zinn's thesis. Make sure you read carefully in order to choose the *most important points that prove Zinn's thesis for this chapter*.
- C. **Important sources and analysis:** After you read the chapter, pick out the two most important sources Zinn uses in the chapter a) State the author, title, and type of source (diary, speech, letter, interview, etc.) b) Why do you think Zinn chose this source to prove his point? c) What other source(s) would you like to read in order to gain a better understanding of the issue? Explain why.
- D. **Observations/Questions:** Write at least two observations and/or questions you have about the chapter. Think about alternate points of view, unanswered questions you have, the reliability (value, limitations, purpose, origin) of the sources, etc. Remember, you don't need to agree with Zinn.

Your chapters for the summer reading of *A People's History of the United States*

1. Columbus, the Indians, and Human Progress
5. A Kind of Revolution
9. Slavery Without Submission, Emancipation Without Freedom
11. Robber Barons and Rebels
21. Carter-Reagan-Bush: The Bipartisan Consensus

(OVER for FORMAT)

Format:

This assignment must be typed and double spaced in Times New Roman 12 point font. Staple your paper in the upper left corner. **DO NOT** use a spiral notebook or put in your paper any type of folder or binder. Be sure to save a digital copy of this paper as you will need to upload it to Turn It In during the first week of school.

You **must** use the **format** below. Use the headings, letters, and numbers exactly as shown below. Use **complete sentences** for this entire assignment. Points will be **deducted** if you do not follow these instructions. **Staple these instructions to the back of your work.**

Chapter # – Title of the Chapter

A. Thesis Statement:

B. Evidence used:

1. (State an important point and explain why you think it's important)
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

C. Important sources and analysis:

1. a)
 b)
 c)
2. a)
 b)
 c)

D. Observations/Questions:

- 1.
- 2.

Title Page:

Your first and last names
APUSH Summer Reading
Class Period _____ (add this on the first day of school)

This assignment is worth 50 points. As stated earlier, you will not receive any points if any part of this assignment appears to be copied from any other person or sources. You are to work individually. Don't forget to staple this instruction sheet to the back of this assignment and bring it the first day of school.

Reminders: Pace your reading. You will not be able to do a marathon reading session the last week of summer and fully understand the text. Begin reading ASAP. Start training yourself to budget your reading time over the summer.

We will have a quiz on the first chapter of your textbook, *America's History*, on Friday, August 14th. You may want to start reading this chapter ahead of time. You will be reading a chapter a week once school begins. **We will have at least one quiz a week once school begins.** It is important that you do not fall behind.