



Pocono Mountain School District

Office of Curriculum and Instruction

PO Box 200 · Swiftwater, PA 18730 · 570-839-7121

Advanced Placement United States History Summer Reading Assignment

Dear AP US History Student:

Congratulations on your enrollment in the Advanced Placement United States History course. This course has been designed to develop analytical skills and allow students to acquire a thorough knowledge of United States History. The course content is based upon “big ideas” in American history and will focus on the following concepts: identity, peopling, work, exchange, technology, politics, power, environment, geography, ideas, beliefs, culture and America in the world. The course will also assess the development of student communication skills through the writing of coherent, analytical essays.

Enrolled students are expected to take the Advanced Placement (AP) examination in May. This is a three-hour exam consisting of: one multiple-choice section; one short-answer question section; one document-based essay requiring the students to answer a question using a series of relevant primary sources; and one section consisting of a long essay. The tests are then scored by readers for the College Board and ETS in June and final scores are available to download in early July. Scores range from 1 to 5, with 3 or better considered as “passing”, and therefore eligible to receive college credit in many universities and colleges.

AP US History is designed to be taught at the college level. Consequently, some students may initially find the pace and workload difficult. To prepare for this transition, class expectations will be provided to students at the beginning of the school year.

There is a mandatory summer reading and related writing assignment required for all students enrolled in AP US History. Students will have a choice in reading assignments. The book choices are *The Federalist Papers* or *How the Other Half Lives*. Students must select one of the two books to read. Both books have been in publication for many years and can be purchased from bookstores or online websites. The books are also available through a link on the district website <http://www.pmsd.org/Page/889>.

Upon completion of the selected reading assignment, students will complete the related writing assignment using the attached directions. This assignment will be worth 10% of your first marking period grade and is due by Friday, September 9, 2016.

Lastly, all information listed above can be found at <http://apushistorymusto.wikispaces.com>. On this Wikispace page you will also find many resources designed to support you in your academic endeavors.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen Smith

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Federal Programs
Pocono Mountain School District

Advanced Placement United States History Book Report-- Non-Fiction

The book report should be 3 to 4 pages long and be written in a simple, concise, clear style.

Don't simply copy pages out of the book or quotes from the cover or pages from an internet web page, as some students may wish to do. The report must be typed, double-spaced with Times New Roman font 12 and one-inch margins.

You should thoroughly answer these questions:

1. **What is the title of the book?** Who is the author? Who is the publisher? How many pages are in the book? These questions should be answered in one or two complete sentences.
2. **How many days did it take you to read this book?** This is about one sentence.
3. **Identify the type of non-fiction book is this?** Is this an analysis of history, a story of some historical event or a biography? This could be about one-paragraph long.
4. **Tell me what the book is about. Summarize the plot.** Explain the main idea and the supporting details or arguments. If the text is organized historically or is a biography, provide information on the important events in the text. This could run from one and a half page to several pages. Do not make it too long or too short; you do not need to explain every little detail in the plot.
5. **Now provide an analysis of the book.** Tell me why you liked or did not like it. Was it too difficult or easy to understand? Was the vocabulary too hard? Would you recommend it to a friend? Did you see a movie or video of the book after reading the text? If so, how is it different from the book? How would you judge the author? Was the story something you could relate to or was it not connected to your real life? This could be one to several pages. Do not forget this part. Most students do well on the summary of the book (question#4) but only write a few sentences for this question. Do a good analysis. This part should be the larger part of the paper.