



Pocono Mountain School District

Office of Curriculum and Instruction

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

Honors Modern US History Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Honors US History Student:

Congratulations on your enrollment in the Honors Modern 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.

There is a mandatory summer reading and related writing assignment required for all students enrolled in Honors US History. Students will read a selection of readings and articles titled Honors US History Summer Readings. The link for the document is on the district website <http://www.pmsd.org/Page/889> .

Upon completion of the elected 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.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen Smith
Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Pocono Mountain School District

Assignment

ASSIGNMENT: The response to each of the following should be approximately 1 typewritten page. Your assignment is to be typed using Times New Roman, 12 point font and should be double-spaced.

1. After reading Article I, **Overview of the Presidential Election Process**, respond to the following:
 - Explain in your own words what can lead to a contested convention and elaborate on the role that delegates and super-delegates play in this process.
 - Support which types of delegates could be said to be ‘a wild card’ by explaining their possible impact on the outcome of a convention.

2. After reading Article II, **The Election of 1896: William McKinley (R) v. William Jennings Bryan (D)**, respond to the following:
 - What was the historic difference in how the Democrats campaigned in the Election of 1896 and how did this deviate from the traditional Republican approach? What was the outcome of the election and do you feel this had any impact on the outcome of the election? Why or why not?
 - Several key issues divided the candidates in the Election of 1896. Identify the key issues; explain each of the issues thoroughly; state the position that the candidates supported on these issues.

3. After reading Article III, **Why the 2016 Election Is Different** by Gerald F. Seib, respond to the following:
 - Site two factors from the Seib article that illustrate how the upcoming United States presidential election is different from previous elections. Explain each of the factors. Do you agree with the author, why or why not?