



Pocono Mountain School District

Instructional Supervisors Office

Honors Modern United States History Summer Reading Assignment

Dear Honors US History Student:

Congratulations on your enrollment in the Honors Modern United States History. 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 have a choice in reading assignments. The choices are from sections within *The Federalist Papers*. Students must select one of the sections to read. *The Federalist Papers* have been in publication for many years and can be viewed online at <http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/fedindex.htm> or purchased from local bookstores.

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 15, 2017.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen Smith
Social Studies Supervisor
Pocono Mountain School District

Honors Modern United States History The Federalist Papers, Nos. 10 and 51

In response to the Antifederalist attacks on the ratification of the newly written US Constitution in 1787, three of our founding fathers, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, authored eighty-five essays in support of the Constitution. These essays were published in four New York newspapers of the time. They have come to acquire a timeless status because they explain the reasoning of our founding fathers as well as defending and interpreting the Constitution.

Students can choose to read and write an essay in response to either of the following selections - Federalist 10 or Federalist 51.

Federalist 10 Prompt:

Federalist 10 was authored by James Madison and published on November 22, 1787, under the pseudonym Publius. In this essay, Madison addresses the question of how to guard against 'factions'. Completely define and describe the meaning of factions as defined by James Madison, using a current day example of a group in the United States. Explain what Madison meant when he stated "Liberty is to factions what air is to fire," and tell why he believed that a republic could protect liberties better than a democracy.

Federalist 51 Prompt:

Federalist 51 was originally published on February 6, 1788. The author, James Madison, begins by informing the reader that in this essay he will explain how liberty is possible. He states: "If men were angels, no government would be necessary. . . . In framing a government . . . to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: You must first enable the government to controul the governed; and, in the next place, oblige it to controul itself." To what 'controls' does Madison refer? Do you believe the controls against the abuse of power by a single government department have been effective? Please cite one example from recent United States history to support your response.

Directions:

Your essay should be 2-3 pages long, typed, with a standard one-inch margin. It should be well written and conform to all writing and grammatical rules. You should strive to utilize higher level vocabulary and sentence structure to communicate information in a clear and direct manner. Do not cut and paste from a related web article. Remember that a narrative essay should be a piece of writing that expresses information as well as the author's opinion – YOUR opinion.