

**Advanced Placement U.S. History (APUSH)
Summer Reading
(2017- 2018)**

*Mr. Brian Brecher, M.S.Ed
Social Sciences
Freire Charter School
Brianb@freirecharterschool.org*

Dear AP US History Students,

As is the expectation of students enrolled in an Advanced Placement course, you will have an assignment to complete over the summer to prepare for AP US History.

Relax, it is completely within your ability to achieve and will not take you weeks to complete. Rest assured, no students have ever died or even had a nervous breakdown in the completion of this assignment! The assignment does; however, reflect my expectations for the caliber of student you are and the dedication you will show throughout the class next school year.

If you feel that this assignment is far beyond your capabilities, please consider now about making a different choice for your social science course next year. I am confident that your past history teachers (wink wink) have prepared you well for the class and that each and everyone one of you will have great success!

Rest assured that all of the summer work will yield a grade in the fall. It is not busy work for the sake of work. Do not procrastinate about getting started on it. It is *far* too much to complete in a day or two before the school year begins in August. If you don't get the work done, besides having a huge and uncorrectable grade deficit in the fall, you will be completely unprepared for major grade-affecting activities on the first day of class in August!

It is an honor and a privilege to embark on this journey with such a talented group of students. I am looking forward to exploring the story that is American history with you next year in APUSH.

Have a great summer!

Mr. B

AP US History (APUSH)
Summer Assignment

Directions: Since this is a *college-level* course that requires *extensive background knowledge* in all aspects of US History, it is imperative that we get off the ground running in August. As such, every AP U.S. History, or APUSH, student will be required to purchase the books below and complete the following summer reading assignments by the first day of school.

1. You will need to purchase the THREE (3) books below. They are available at any local bookstore and new or used on Amazon.com. We will use them throughout the year, not just for the summer.
2. In addition to the written responses, there will be a **general reading check test** on books #1 and #2. You WILL be able to use any notes that you took while reading. You will NOT; however, be able to use the actual books during the test.
3. The third book, "U.S. History Crash Course" by REA will be unbelievably helpful throughout the entire year. There is no reading assigned from this book over the summer, but it is vital in preparing you for the in- class exams and the AP Exam in May. This little book will quickly become your best friend in APUSH! I promise ☺

- 1) **Short History of the United States** by Robert V. Remini, (Pgs. 1-62)
- 2) **Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation** by Joseph Ellis (Preface & Ch. 1)
- 3) **AP U.S. History Crash Course** published by REA. (Please purchase the most up-to-date version!)

a. Note – this is the smaller of the two books REA publishes!

Assignment 1

1. Each student must complete a Dialectical Journal for the first two chapters of Book 1 – Short History of the United States. Please follow this model. **It must be typed.** You must have at least **20** entries!
2. **The Quotes can be from ANY passage in the book. They do not have to be someone's actual quoted words. If you find something interesting, use it for a quote! Also, try and space out the quotes so you have about an equal amount from each chapter.**

| Quote | Pg # | Why you thought <i>this</i> quote was interesting |
|-------|------|---|
| 1. | | |

Assignment 2

Directions Each student must complete the two **Critical Analysis** questions for the Preface and Chapter 1 in Book 2: **Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation**. Your answers to the

following questions must be typed and are due the first day of class in August. Please be **complete** and **thorough**.

The reading guide questions will be graded for mastery, not just effort!

The book is divided into six mini stories, each about a specific aspect of the time period just after the signing of the Constitution, (1790- 1804). You are required to read the Preface and the first chapter – The Duel.

Once you get going, you will find the story of the duel between Alexander Hamilton/ Aaron Burr and the preceding events extremely interesting. Quite simply, it's one example of what makes history awesome 😊

Good Luck!

Book 2: Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation by Joseph Ellis

Critical Analysis Questions

1. The anecdote that Benjamin Rush liked to repeat about an overheard conversation between Benjamin Harrison and Elbridge Gerry on July 4, 1776, makes clear that the signers of the Declaration of Independence felt some doubt about their chances of surviving their revolutionary act. As Ellis points out, if the British commanders had been more aggressive, "The signers of the Declaration would . . . have been hunted down, tried, and executed for treason, and American history would have flowed forward in a wholly different direction" [p. 5]. Why is it so difficult to grasp this notion of the new nation's utter fragility?
2. What was really at stake in the disagreement and duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton? If Hamilton felt that the disparaging statements he had made about Burr were true, should he have lied in order to save his life? Was this merely a war over words? Did words have more significance then than they do now? What role did newspapers play in the drama, and how is the media's role different or similar today?
3. What stands out to you the most about this story (*Hamilton – Burr Duel*)? Why?

