

# Advanced Placement United States History

# Suggested Summer Assignment

Although it is not required per se to complete this assignment by the first day of school, this course's rigorous pace and workload can be quite overwhelming at the beginning of the year. These assignments will help you make a smoother transition into the A.P. level of class work and it is HIGHLY SUGGESTED that you complete them over the summer.

## PROJECT #1: BEGIN YOUR Thematic Journals and Key terms

It is critical to have a solid factual foundation for analyzing history. You will be required to read each chapter of your textbook and describe a series of terms. In order to finish the text and review for the A.P. exam, Unit 1 chapters will be due at the end of the first week of school. (no excuses!) Get started by completing the first three chapters and IDs over the summer. Using the list of Key terms at the end of this assignment attached here, describe each term and its significance in American History:

- All the work is to be written in either a marbled notebook or spiral bound notebook. Some people find that a three subject spiral is sufficient for all 9 units, but this depends on how much you write and how large your hand writing is.
- Title the Unit with the chapter numbers . Number all the terms so that they correspond to the list provided. All descriptions must be written BY HAND. Follow the following format:

“1. Term: description...”

- Write enough factual information so that you will understand it later. Feel free to abbreviate and bullet point if necessary. Remember, this becomes a study tool for *you* so modify it for maximum efficiency. Try to avoid writing diatribes. You will only need to write a phrase or sentence for some IDs and a few sentences for others. You need to decide what is right for you. The best advice I have for you is to answer the basics (who, what, where, when, why) at first. Your term finesse will develop later.

Thematic Journal for each Unit you are due at the same time as the Unit Terms you can either put the Thematic Journal before or after the Key Terms for each unit but each Unit the same information is needed for each unit. Instructions for the Journals with each themes follows:

### Chapter Thematic Journal

*Directions Part I: Your answers for this should be in complete sentences. Two to five sentences should adequately address each theme. Your answers should be on your own paper.*

*As you read the assigned chapter, use **SPECIFIC** names, terms, and topics to explain the significance of each of the following themes:*

1. **B**eliefs, Ideas, and Culture
2. **A**merica in the World
3. **G**eography and the Environment
4. **P**eopling
5. **I**ntity
6. **P**olitics and Power
7. **E**conomy (Work, Exchange, Technology)

**Directions Part II:** Respond in two to five sentences to ONE of the following:

- A. Explain and evaluate **at least one** historical phenomenon, event, or process (from this chapter's reading) and its relationship to broader regional, national, or global processes occurring during the same time period, OR another era.

**OR**

- B. How could **at least one** concept in this chapter be tied to another subject area OR how could at least one concept in this chapter be related to a theme or concept in the present?

**PROJECT #2:** In order to ensure we can get through the entire scope of U.S. History it is important that we begin right away, with this in mind it is **HIGHLY** suggested that you read the following Book and answer each of the questions below during the summer, this assignment **WILL** be due the same time that your first Thematic Journal and key terms are. Please purchase the book:

**American Colonies: The Settling of North America, Vol. 1 Paperback – July 30, 2002**

**by Alan Taylor (Author), Eric Foner (Series Editor)**

**( This book is available on Amazon for as little as \$1.24 used)**

**Once you have read the book answer each of the following questions in a long paragraph or 2.**

**Questions for Alan Taylor's Colonial America: A Very Short Introduction:**

- **What is Taylor's overall project? What makes his understanding of colonial American history different than other historians who have come before him?**
- **What historical approaches/methods does Taylor explicitly employ in Colonial America?**
- **What historical approaches/methods does Taylor implicitly employ in Colonial America?**
- **What are the topics of each chapter? Why is the order of his presentation significant?**
- **What are the major points/themes/arguments of each of chapter?**
- **Which examples from each chapter best support his arguments?**
- **How does each chapter contribute to his overall project?**
- **What are the most significant differences between the different groups he discusses?**
- **What are the most significant differences within the groups he discusses?**
- **How does Taylor characterize the interactions between the different groups that comprised colonial America? What's the significance of these interactions?**
- **What are some of the most important events – ones that embody the interactions or transformed the character of the relationships between the different groups?**

**Please contact me over the summer with any questions or concerns. I can be reached via email at [janderson2@bcps.org](mailto:janderson2@bcps.org) or you can call the school and leave a message (449-809-2775). I don't check in every day but will touch base frequently so that I can reply in a timely manner.**

**Unit 1 (1491-1607) Key Terms**  
**Chapters 1 & 2**

You should be able to identify the **significance** of the following terms from Unit 1.

*These terms are specifically identified in the Curricular Framework (from the College Board):*

African slavery

Algonquian

Bartolome de Las Casas

Caste System

Columbian Exchange

Cows

Encomienda system

Epidemics

Great Basin

Great Plains

Horses

Iroquois

Joint-stock companies

Juan de Sepulveda

Maize

Maroon communities in Brazil and the Caribbean

Mixing of Christianity and traditional African religions

Sugar

Sextant

Silver