

Dear AP U.S. Student,

Just when you thought school was behind you and all you had were the summer days to worry about! Enclosed you will find the required summer reading assignments for the AP U.S. History course for the 2009-2010 school year. The book should be easily attainable at a local library, bookstore, www.half.com or Amazon and any edition will be fine. The summer assignment is a REQUIREMENT to enter the course in September. It is due the first day of school. THE SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GRADED!!! This assignment MUST be done individually and it MUST be your own work. You MUST cite all your sources.

One of the goals of this course is to prepare you for the AP Exam, scheduled for May 8th, 2009. The exam focuses on the political impact of this country from Columbus to Clinton. In order to better understand the complex and controversial issues surrounding politics, a closer look at our founding fathers will be essential to understanding our great national debate. It is for this purpose that the book, *Founding Myths* by Ray Raphael was selected. It is my belief that with a strong background on the foundation of American politics, you will be better prepared for the exam.

PART 1: I am asking you to choose THREE themes from the list below and follow the evolution of that topic throughout the book. Your assignment will be to TYPE a 5-paragraph essay on EACH of the three themes you choose. These essays should have an introduction with a thesis, three detailed paragraphs supporting the thesis, and a conclusion. Each essay should be broken into 3 basic areas. Body paragraph one is for the background of the myths described in that section, including who was involved, how did the myth come about, and what role it plays in our history. Body paragraph two will cover the true stories, including what really happened, the significance of the true story, and the reasons why it is covered up by a myth. The third body paragraph will be your interpretation on what the myths have on present day, what is the better story (myth or fact), and which story should be told. Your conclusion should answer the following two questions: Why is it important to challenge myths that constitute American folklore? If these myths are simply benign stories of heroism that make Americans feel proud, why not let them persist?

The information you focus on should back up your thesis. I am expecting to read specific examples (footnote the information-I want to see page numbers) throughout the essay proving not only your thesis, but also the fact that you read the book. Each essay should be at least 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced, with size 12 font.

EX-

paragraph 1: Intro

paragraph 2: the myths (Paul Revere, Molly Pitcher, and Sam Adams)

paragraph 3: the true stories

paragraph 4: Which story is better? Why?

paragraph 5: conclusion...should we let Revere, Pitcher, and Sam Adams persist?

PART 1 THEMES

Heroes and Heroines

David and Goliath

Wise Men

Doing Battle

Good Evil

Happy Endings

PART II: Read chapters 1-5 of the American Pageant, by Thomas Bailey. Create a poster (standard size poster board) that covers the following material for each of the 13 colonies: year founded, the leader or leaders, main industry or crop, main religion, Indian relations, Slave or Free, form of government, reason for establishment, and pride issue (what makes your colony better than every other one).

You will be graded on the information provided and the effort you put into the assignment. Also, **COVER YOUR TEXTBOOK FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!**
THESE ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. GOOD LUCK AND HAVE A RESTFUL SUMMER! (You'll need it!)

Any questions:

Sincerely,

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