

Dear AP US History Students,

Welcome! AP U.S. History is a challenging course that is meant to be the equivalent of a freshman college course and can earn students college credit. It is a two-semester survey of American history from the age of exploration and discovery to the present. This year's exam will take place nationwide on **May 11, 2018**. In order to be fully prepared by this date, you will need to devote considerable time to reading, homework, and studying. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, interpretation of original documents, and historiography.

In order to prepare for the course work ahead, as well as for the AP test, please complete the Summer Reading Assignments as described below. All readings can be found on the CHS website at <http://chs.camas.wednet.edu/about/advanced-placement-2/>

**Read the following:**

- **Chapters 1-3 - *A People's History of the United States*, by Howard Zinn.** From its original publication in 1980, and over several revisions, Zinn's book has introduced new perspectives into the study of American History. Though widely accepted throughout academia, *A People's History of the United States* continues to be controversial. This can be bought at most book stores, Chapters 1-3 (they are relatively short) can be downloaded at the CHS website, or read online at <http://www.historyisaweapon.com/zinnapeopleshistory.html>
- ***Why Students Should Study History*, an interview between Howard Zinn and Barbara Miner.** This can be found at [http://chs.camas.wednet.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/2011\\_ap\\_us\\_history-zinn-why.pdf](http://chs.camas.wednet.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/2011_ap_us_history-zinn-why.pdf)
- ***Howard Zinn's Biased History*, by Daniel J. Flynn.** Some conservative historians and authors criticize Zinn and his admittedly leftist leanings. This is an article by conservative author Daniel Flynn, which can be found at the following websites: <http://hnn.us/articles/1493.html> or at the CHS website

**Analytical Essay:**

In an analytical essay, evaluate chapters 1-3 of *A People's History of the United States*, by Howard Zinn. In your response, address the following issues (do not simply list), citing specific examples from the required readings using parenthetical documentation and MLA format. The CHS Document and Format Guidelines booklet can be found at [http://staff.camas.wednet.edu/blogs/camashslic/files/2013/09/Format-Documentation-Guide-14\\_15.pdf](http://staff.camas.wednet.edu/blogs/camashslic/files/2013/09/Format-Documentation-Guide-14_15.pdf).

**Cite EVERYTHING and don't forget a works cited!** The grading rubric can be found at the CHS website.

- **Purpose** - According to Zinn, what is his main purpose for writing *A People's History of the United States*? What would you consider to be his thesis?
- **Perspective** – How might a person's race and social class affect a person's view of history.
  - How does Zinn address this issue in *A People's History of the United States*?
  - On page 14 of *Why Students Should Study History*, Zinn says, "Objectivity is neither possible nor desirable. It's not possible because all history is subjective; all history represents a point of view." Zinn says teachers should give their opinions in class. Do you think this is appropriate in a high school course? Why or why not?
- **Case Study** - Find a summary of the Pequot War. (Make sure to cite your source – Wikipedia or other encyclopedias are not valid sources!) Was that source's summary closer to Flynn's or Zinn's summary of the conflict? Explain the similarities and differences.
- **Critique** - What do you think about Howard Zinn's approach to history? What did you like or dislike? What criticism does Flynn put forth of Zinn as a writer? Which one of these historians (Zinn or Flynn) would you rather have as your history teacher? Why? (BUT, still keep your paper in the THIRD PERSON!)

**Bring a hard copy of your final draft on the first day of class.** You will also need to submit your final draft to <http://turnitin.com> (see directions on the back side). Remember, this will be the first impression I will have of you – make it a good one! If you have any questions, please email me directly at [mark.tomasetti@camas.wednet.edu](mailto:mark.tomasetti@camas.wednet.edu).

Have a productive summer and see you in September.

Sincerely,

Mark Tomasetti

**ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE GRADED UNLESS FINAL DRAFTS ARE SUBMITTED TO  
TURNITIN.COM**

Instructions for turning in your Papers

1. Open your saved paper on your computer
2. Highlight the whole thing and go to file => copy
3. Go to the website [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com)
4. If you already have an account, log in and skip to instruction #5. Otherwise, click on “create a user profile” in the top right part of the screen. Go through the process of getting an account by first indicating you are a student.
5. If you already had an account, click on “join new class.” If you’re still signing up, the next step is to tell it your Class ID number and password.  
Class ID number – 15538927  
Password – Tomasetti  
Class Name – APUSH Summer Assignment
6. If you’re still signing up for a class, provide your email account next. You will have a receipt of everything you turn in mailed to you at that address. If you don’t have email, just enter a fake address. Answer all the remaining questions to get an account.
7. Once you’re into your account, click on Tomasetti’s class. Now click on the “submit” icon next to “Summer Biography Assignment.”
8. Change the box to read “submit a paper by cut and paste,” then paste your paper into the big box by going to file => paste. (Or use the file upload option)
9. You’re done. If you make a mistake, you can’t submit twice, so you’ll need to contact me.