



## Preparing for your United States History (all levels) course

This summer, as you assemble your “to do” list for returning to AACCS in the fall, there are many things you can do to set a foundation for success in your US History course. And if you are traveling, look for places to visit / sightsee which will give you a “picture” of historic life in America

Ms. Bierc and Mr. Grunert are the US History instructors at AACCS. Ms. Bierc teaches the general course; Mr. Grunert teaches the general, honors, and Advanced Placement courses. Regardless of the level of US History in which you are enrolled, there are several things you can do over the summer to enhance your history experience.

1. **Read** – Previously, AACCS juniors have read Frederick Douglass’ *Life and Narrative*. If your English course summer reading has a history component to it – GREAT. You are also encouraged to engage in reading a separate work that is based on some American historical perspective. This can be [historic] fictional, non-fiction, or biographical.
2. **Visit** – There are so many incredible historic sites within a short distance from the AACCS campus.
  - Smithsonian Museums
    - American History
    - African American History
    - Native American History
  - National Memorials
    - Martin Luther King, Jr.
    - World War II
    - Korean Conflict
    - Vietnam
  - National Historic Sites (Ford’s Theatre, for example)
  - Presidential sites
    - Birthplace
    - Library
  - National Parks
  - National Historic Battlefields
    - Gettysburg
    - Harpers Ferry
    - Antietam
    - Fredericksburg
  - Cemeteries (Arlington, for example)

### 3. **Watch**

- Documentary
  - specifically one that interests you (for example, Civil War, The Wright Brothers, Henry Ford)
- Movie
  - one with historic reliability
  - historic fiction (for example *The Patriot* (Mel Gibson))

### 4. **Research**

- Your family ancestry
  - Is there an Ellis Island connection?
  - Immigration origin
  - Is there a family connection to a notable American (living or deceased)? (for example, one student found out that a distant family member was a signer of the Declaration of Independence)