

Advanced Placement U.S. History (APUSH) Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP U.S. History. In order to familiarize yourselves with key themes that will be addressed throughout the year, including those dealing with the role of the national government, slavery and concepts of freedom, as well as, precedent understanding of America's place in the world, I have assigned the Pulitzer prize-winning book, *Founding Brothers*, by Joseph Ellis. It is organized into chapters that cover key figures who shaped the nation and address themes that will help you better understand the topics covered in the first quarter. Be sure to read every chapter, including the preface.

Students will read the following book:

Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation, by Joseph J. Ellis
Please purchase a paperback copy on amazon: **ISBN-13: 978-0375705243**

Assignment:

- A. Students should take written notes while or after reading the preface and each chapter of the book on separate paper. I will collect notes (hand-written only) **on the second day of school**. Your notes should be organized by chapter and should consider all of the following:
- each chapter's main theme and how key figures of the revolutionary generation approached concepts like: the role of the federal government and its balance with state sovereignty
 - the meaning of the American Revolution, both politically and socially, including implications on individual rights and the practice of slavery
 - the young country's place and role in the world in terms of foreign relations, variant views on European powers, concepts of democracy, and American trade
 - the emergence of factions and political parties and the main issues that generated discourse and division
 - The role and impact of the founding brothers on the national identity, in terms of their collaboration, their platforms, their negotiations, and their shortcomings
 - Key events that Ellis emphasizes (for instance, Jay's Treaty or XY Affair or Alien and Sedition Acts)
- B. Students will take a "did you read the book?" assessment regarding key revolutionary themes and events in the book. Students will be permitted to have their book and/or their "hand-written" notes with them during the assessment. The assessment will be administered **on the second day of school**. Questions may include: excerpt-based questions, including multiple-choice and free-response questions (FRQ), short answer questions (SAQ), and/or short essay questions that analyze key concepts.

Note: Students will use the book again later in the quarter for other assessments during the unit on early American government, so it is essential that you read this book thoroughly.