

AP United States History Summer Book Review Guidelines

Which book to use?

You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington by Alexis Coe

What should the paper contain?

- Present the author's thesis or point of view about the subject of his book (Hint-don't skip the Preface or the Introduction).
- You should give the context of the book; however, do **NOT** merely summarize the contents of the book. This is your critique of the book. (Things you might consider—Why does this book matter? Should people read it? What sources are used? Is the author convincing? Is there any bias?)
- Analyze the significance of Washington.

What is the format?

- Use MLA format for your paper including your works cited page.
- Typed and double-spaced in 12 point font (Times New Roman) with a 1 inch margin on all sides.
- Three-to-five pages in length (not including the works cited page).

How do I cite information?

There will be times that using the author's exact words is important and even necessary. However, quotations should be used in moderation. Whenever a passage is quoted or an idea is paraphrased, it **MUST** be cited! MLA format is appropriate for this paper, which means a works cited page should be included with the paper. I anticipate that your works cited page will likely only include this book.

Anything not cited will be considered plagiarism, and the paper will receive a zero. Furthermore, I am interested in YOUR review of the book, not someone else's—this includes your friends, parents, and those you might find on the internet, etc. Do your own work.

Example of MLA citation:

Paraphrase:

The Eisenhower Doctrine was designed to fill the vacuum of power left by the loss of British and French prestige after the Suez Canal incident (Smith 250).

Direct quote:

“Eisenhower's rationale for the doctrine was that ‘the existing vacuum in the Middle East must be filled by the United States before it was filled by the Russians’” (Smith 250).

Summer Review due the first day of school!!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at mcampbell@episcopalcollegiate.org. I am happy to review your work beforehand. Additionally, I am happy to provide you with sample book reviews for your perusing. I hope that you have a wonderful summer!