



ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

2024 Summer Reading

AP/ACP AMERICAN HISTORY

Teacher: Mr. Brandon Westlake

PART I: PERSONAL HISTORY

I) First, watch this video for an introduction and some ideas:

[Summer reading introduction](#)

II) Read and take notes:

- a) ["Why Do Historians So Often Differ?"](#)
- b) ["Knowing History and Knowing Who We Are"](#)

III) Write personal history (500 words minimum, 650 words max)

Your personal history should:

- a) *Not be a summary of what you read*, it should focus on analyzing and connecting the ideas somehow. There are many different ways to do this; you are not expected to pick up on some "hidden meaning" or try and guess what Mr. Westlake wants you to find.
- b) You need to incorporate ideas from both articles. Somehow, use the ideas from the article to talk about, and analyze your personal history.
- c) Have one main idea for each paragraph
- d) 500 words minimum, 650 words maximum
- e) Include specific evidence from the book, with page numbers in parentheses like this: "blah blah blah (4)." *Do not use any quotes longer than one line.*
- f) Free of major grammar and spelling mistakes

Grading:

- a) Analysis: Do you analyze your own past? Do you explore your own identity?
- b) Connecting ideas: Do you connect ideas from what you read to yourself?
- c) Grammar/spelling: Do you show you made a conscious effort to do your best work, making sure you have minimal grammatical and spelling errors?
- d) Citations: Do you cite ideas that are not your own?
- e) Word length: Do you stay within the required length?

PART II: UNIT I READING

Read and take notes on the following from *These Truths*:

Introduction and Chapter 1 of *These Truths*

Quiz:

There will be a quiz on the first full day of class over both of these readings. You will respond to a question about each reading in a well-written paragraph.

****The copy you need of *These Truths* is *not* the book from last year. You need one with the white cover****