

APUSH Summer 2026 Assignment

Greetings, Young Historians! Thank you for undertaking AP US History. This is one of the most valuable, rewarding courses you can take before you graduate high school and enter society. Next school year, it will be my pleasure to travel with you from the establishment of Native American societies all the way to President Obama's second term.

Prior to the first day of school on Friday, August 14, you are required to complete one reading and associated work. Paper copies of these readings will be available during seminar in 3509 starting on Monday, May 11 for students who prefer hard copy. PDFs are also posted to the APUSH 2026-27 Summer Assignment Google Classroom with code **p7rwb6xm**.

- **Read and respond to “History, Critical and Patriotic,” by Eliot A. Cohen (15 pts.)**
 - Arrive to our first class with **2-3 handwritten*** pages that summarize and respond to Cohen.
 - How does he describe and judge different styles of history?
 - What do you think Cohen wants for the future of the discipline?
 - Do you think he is right?
 - Feel free to reasonably agree or disagree with Cohen. Intellectual diversity is a cornerstone of this class. Historians do not always agree with each other!
- **Read and take notes over pages 1-8 (stop at the heading “The Complex World of Indian America”) of Chapter One of your textbook (10 pts.)**
 - Arrive to our first class with at least **one full page of original, handwritten*** notes from the chapter that reflect careful reading and comprehension.
 - I will provide feedback on this first set of notes, to help you begin growing as an APUSH student.
 - Refer to Google Classroom for awesome resources and supports, including an audiobook, chapter outline (which you can use to scaffold your notes—print it off and write your own notes providing detail and explanation on top of the outline, if you want), and answers to end of chapter review questions.
- **Memorize the presidents in order and be prepared to list them. Yes, all of them (5 pts.)**
 - YouTube has several song versions! Pick a fun or interesting one, like the Animaniacs.
 - Being competent at history involves WAY more than just memorization, but having a general framework to hang content on makes APUSH much easier to follow! *You will thank me for this!!!*

*If you have an IEP or 504 excepting handwriting, please bring your assignment typed. Only students with a documented plan may submit typed documents.

Study resources/practice questions for each chapter, note-taking tips, and tricks of the trade will be posted to Google Classroom and will be covered during the beginning of school. A full syllabus, including reading and assessment schedule, will also be posted over the summer.

You may start thinking about your National History Day project, too. **The theme next year will be *Innovation in History: Impact, Influence, Change!*** Completion of a project is a major requirement for all APUSH students at Olathe West High School, and for many students, this is the most in-depth research project they complete during their high school years. Many students also choose to enter official competition with their projects, and **over 60 students** have qualified to attend national-level competition in Washington, D.C. in the history of our program! An idea for a topic will be due a few weeks after school begins. Visit www.nhd.org to learn about the theme and explore the five different types of projects you can complete. You may work alone or in groups of up to three, and any topic within United States history is allowed for the purposes of this course, so choose a topic that *really* interests YOU!

I will check and respond to school emails (jfboyd@olatheschools.org) periodically throughout summer. Don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns!

Finally, I encourage you all to find a study buddy now. Set up a time with your fellow young historians to get together and go over the readings. Effective collaboration is one of many keys to AP success!

Best regards,
Jordan Boyd

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