

May 16, 2026

Dear Advanced Placement United States History Student,

Welcome to AP U. S. History! The 2026-2027 school year will be very busy as we prepare ourselves for the rigorous May 5 Advanced Placement examination. Since this is a *college-level* course requiring *extensive background knowledge* in all aspects of United States History, it is imperative that we get off to a strong start in August. Students matriculated in the course are expected to sit for the national Advanced Placement examination in May.

- 1) The “Summer Reading Assignment” has the information for the *Founding Brothers* assignment. ***The work will be due on the first day of class, no exceptions, no late work accepted.*** The assignments for *Founding Brothers* will count as two test grades during the first marking period. Textbook chapters corresponding to *Founding Brothers* are included on Dreher’s Summer Assignment website to assist you with *contextualization* (historical thinking skill).
- 2) The textbook assignments will **be submitted on the first day of class in August.** The textbook chapters (1-3) in .pdf format are posted on Dreher’s Summer Assignment website. If requested by email, I can also email you the .pdf copies of the first three chapters of the textbook. For each chapter, you are to complete double-column notes - DCN. You will be taking detailed notes on the main issues and ideas presented in each chapter. This work is due on the first day of school. Notes will be handwritten, using black ink in the Modified Cornell format (DCN) on “college-rule” notebook paper. Notes must be legible! Remember: the purpose of notes is to “inform the person you are next week, not the person you are today.” Google “SQ3R” and utilize these steps for reading and note taking. Remember that reading is a process! Read. Then, take notes. This process allows you to think about the information and paraphrase the information. Reading and taking notes at the same time often leads to a recopying of the text – not taking notes!

Every student registered in this course is **required** to complete the summer reading, textbook, and any additional assignment(s) by the established ***due dates - no exceptions.*** Enrollment in the course is contingent on the successful completion of this work, i.e., if you do not finish the assignments by the posted deadlines, you will be enrolled in the honors-level U.S. History course.

Please make sure you are meticulous when saving word documents. All handwritten work must be ***legible and completed using blue or black ink.***

The required summer reading is intended to provide the background information necessary to hit the ground running in August. The book on this reading list are available in paperback.

Dreher High School encourages all students to achieve at the highest level of their ability in academics, personal honesty, and integrity. Therefore, the use of text notes, such as *Cliffs Notes* and Internet/AI sources, such as those found at sites like *SparkNotes*, do not constitute the reading of a literary work, and should not be used as a substitute for reading and engaging with text. Do not circumvent the reading requirement by relying on these study aids. Additionally, summer assignments are not collaborative in nature. Each student is required to independently complete assignments. Any violation of the Honor Code of Conduct will result in a zero for the work and disciplinary action.

My email address is at the top of the project page. You may send comments and questions regarding the completion of the assignments to my email. I will check email weekly through the summer. Please establish a study plan providing ample time for assignment completion; thereby, allowing ample time to relax and enjoy summer vacation.

Due to the analytical writing skills essential to success in AP U.S. History and on the national exam, it is strongly recommended that students are simultaneously enrolled in Dreher’s AP English Language course.

I look forward to seeing you in August!

Regards,

Mrs. Griffin

Mrs. Griffin
AP U.S. History Teacher

