# SUMMER WORK

AP U.S. History Summer 2026
Jacob LaFiandra: jlafiandra@wma.us

**Overview:** American history and culture does not come from a single antiquated textbook nor from political sound bites, but rather from new and differing opinions based upon research and evidence. Reading and researching such works therefore enhance perspectives on, and scholarship of American History. One exciting area of scholarship focuses on the interactions between three different cultures and populations in early America. Thus, your first documented writing assignment will be based upon your summer reading.

**Assignment:** Read *Red, White, & Black: The Peoples of Early North America* ((Prentice Hall, Pearson 6th or 7th Edition) by Gary B. Nash and write three short response questions that are each between 250 and 350 words in length. Your response to question three is between 150 to 250 words. These responses must include a complex, historically defensible claim, specific textual evidence, and an analysis that thoroughly answers the specific question. The three questions for the short-answer assignment are…

**1. [State/Analyze]** What is the author's message about American history and how does it compare to your prior knowledge and understanding? What did you learn from the book?

**2. [Synthesize/Analyze]** What AP US themes of American history and culture are reflected in this book? (Go to the AP US College Board website to examine the eight themes). Select two themes and cite passages in the book that connect to them...

**3. [Opinion/Analyze]** [150-250 Words] How does this work compare to other history books you have read? Did you like it?

Cite relevant passages in support of your writing, using proper MLA parenthetical references. All papers are due on the first day of class. Your grade is based upon content, organization, and technical merit. All writing must have a full, MLA citation of Nash's work. Using sources outside the book is not recommended. Any outside sources included must have a full MLA citation. Any violation of this will result in no credit for the assignment

**Grade**: The paper is valued as a quiz grade (25 points)
Your short responses should all have a complex claim; meaning that in your first sentence will state what the analysis will be and why it will be made. This will clearly frame your entire response.
Specific passages and examples from the text will be needed to answer. Be sure you integrate your responses in your paragraphs, and that you link your argument and evidence where possible. You must include and document specific information from Nash's work. Write with clarity.
If you can, get the sixth or seventh edition. You can rent an eTextbook online for a more affordable price using the link below.
https://www.pearson.com/en-us/search.html?aq=red%20white%20and%20black