

AP World History Book Analysis
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AP World History is a fast-paced course that covers, as you can imagine, the history of the world. Because there is so much content that we will be covering, students will use this summer assignment to familiarize themselves with many of the topics that we will be covering throughout the year. In this summer assignment, students will read the following book and complete an analysis of it. Please note that the analysis is NOT a “book report”. Students will need to do more than just summarize the text. The assigned book has been selected for its readability, as well for its unique perspective on the interactions of societies and goods.

Assigned Book: “A History of the World in 6 Glasses” by Tom Standage. In this book, Standage describes the course of world history from 6000 BCE to modern times through the lens of six different books: beer, wine, spirits, coffee, tea, and Coca-Cola.

Book Analysis Directions

Please provide the following information in your Book Analysis. Please see the rubric for scoring information.

1. **Author:** Please include the name of the book and author, with a one paragraph biography of the author.
2. **Thesis:** In one sentence, explain the major point of the book. What does the author argue about the 6 drinks?
3. **Summary:** In 2-3 paragraphs, summarize the major points of the books. For this section, please include each of the major drinks and a brief explanation of how they impact history. **Students must include parenthetical citations for this section.** Whenever the student quotes or paraphrases the text, they should include the page number of where they are getting that information from.
4. **Critique:** In 3-5 paragraphs, analyze and critique the book. Below are some questions that you might answer in your critique. **PICK ONE and elaborate on it for the entirety of your critique.** Pick one and answer it fully, rather than answering multiple of these questions. **Students must include parenthetical citations for this section.** Whenever the student quotes or paraphrases the text, they should include the page number of where they are getting that information from.
 - a. Do you agree with the author’s thesis? Why or Why not? Is this a good way to represent history?
 - b. What of significance did you learn from the book? Is this a good book to begin a world history course in?
 - c. What country is the author from? How does this impact the argument or content?
 - d. What are the limitations of the author’s thesis? What should be changed in order to make the book more effective?
 - e. Is history represented through different drinks, still “history”? Is there a right way or a wrong way to learn about history? Are there different types of “history”?

Due Date

This Book Analysis is a course requirement and is **due by the first day of class, August 3rd, 2026**. This will be your first minor grade. Additionally, we will have a quiz on the book on the first Friday of the school year. This quick will also count as a minor grade.

Any students who enroll in the class late will still be expected to complete the summer reading assignment. We will meet with the students and come up with an appropriate timeline in that instance.

Rubric

1. Author Section (5 total points)
 - a. Student includes the title of the book and the authors name (2 points)
 - b. Student includes a one paragraph biography of the author (3 points)
2. Thesis (5 total points)
 - a. Students accurately describe the authors argument of the book (5 points)
3. Summary (45 points)
 - a. Students include each of the drinks (12 points/2 per drink)
 - b. Students include a brief explanation of how each drink impacted history (18 points/3 per drink)
 - c. Students use parenthetical citations to reference the page number they are taking the information from (15 points)
4. Critique (45 points)
 - a. Students just answer one question in depth as opposed to multiple prompts (10 points)
 - b. Students write 3-5 paragraphs regarding the critique (10 points)
 - c. Students use parenthetical citations to reference the page number they are taking the information from (15 points)
 - d. Student responses demonstrate individual thought and reflection (10 points)

Misc Expectations

- Responses should be typed
- A.I. is not to be used to generate any part of this assignment
- Assignments should be proofread for grammatical errors. Please note that although grammar is not a separate category in rubric, repeated and consistent grammatical mistakes will still result in lost points

Questions: Please contact Mr. Hennessey with any questions or concerns! I will check my email over summer but not every day, so please allow for a little delay in response time.