

# APUSH Summer Reading Assignment

Ms. Sambol / Mr. Jacobi

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(Please email over the summer with any questions or concerns)

The following assignment is a course requirement and is due by the first day of class, **August 3, 2026**. After that date, half (50%) credit will be given for one week unless a student enrolls late in the course. In this case, please contact us immediately to make a plan for submission.

AP U.S. History is a rigorous, fast-paced history survey class. You must use the summer months to acquaint yourself with the [course content \(click for course information\)](#) and prepare for the kind of inquiry-based learning that is central to the class. The book chosen for the summer assignment – [15 Foods in U.S. History by Anne Zeide](#) - provides students an opportunity to explore history in a slightly different way, considering the different foods that shed light on the history of the country. Please see the requirements below for the book critique.

The Summer Assignment should be hand-written, clearly labeled as shown below, and 100% authentic, original student work.

## Book Critique Requirements:

1. **Author:** Name of book and author with a one paragraph biography of the author. (10 points)
2. **Thesis:** In one sentence, explain the major point of the book. What does the author argue about foodways and U.S. history? (20 points)
3. **Summary:** In 2-3 paragraphs summarize the major points of the book. (30 Points/2 points per food) - Include each of the foods and a brief explanation of how they impact and relate to U.S. History and be sure to page numbers for specific information used.
4. **Critique:** In 3-5 paragraphs you will analyze and critique the book. (40 Points) - Some of the questions you might answer are below. PICK ONE and elaborate on it for the entirety of your critique. Do not respond to all the questions:
  - Do you agree with the thesis? Why or why not? Is this a good way to represent history?
  - What of significance did you learn from the book?
  - What is the author's point of view? How does it impact the argument or content?

The critique will be a Minor Grade. This will be your first grade in AP U.S. History. The critiques are due on the first day of class in August. There will also be a quiz on the book the first Friday of the school year, which will count as a Formative/Practice Grade.