FWHS AP United States History – Summer Assignment

Congratulations on enrolling in **AP U.S. History (APUSH)** — a demanding and rewarding course that explores the political, social, economic, and cultural forces that have shaped the United States.

Why Summer Work?

To succeed in this college-level course, you must be prepared to read analytically and write thoughtfully. This summer assignment will:

- Build foundational content knowledge (Chapters 1–3 of *Give Me Liberty*)
- Strengthen skills in critical thinking and writing
- Provide an early measure of your motivation and academic readiness

Be aware: A **content-specific test** on Chapters 1–3 will be administered during the **first week of school**.

Summer Work Checklist

1. **READ** Chapters **1–3** of *Give Me Liberty* carefully and actively.
    - Take notes. Use margins or a notebook to track reactions, insights, and questions.
2. **RESPOND** to the focus questions for each chapter.
    - See question sets below.
    - **Use paragraph form**: Each answer should be a well-developed paragraph (4–6 sentences minimum) that includes:
        - Specific examples and historical context
        - Clear argument or explanation
        - Page numbers for cited evidence
3. **WRITE your responses in your own words.**
    - We are looking for your thinking, not perfection.
    - **KEEP total notes to 2–3 pages per chapter.**
4. ***OPTIONAL**: Get a head start on **Chapter 4**—we begin the year there.

Guiding Question: How did contact and conflict between different peoples, beliefs, and empires shape the early American experience?

- Your responses should show **analysis**, **interpretation**, and **historical reasoning**, not just facts.
- Avoid summarizing the textbook. Think critically: *What changed? Why? Who benefited or lost?*

Focus Questions by Chapter

Chapter 1: Old Worlds and New

- What were the major patterns of Native American life in North America before European arrival?
- How did Native and European ideas of *freedom* differ at the time of contact?
- What were the consequences of contact between the peoples of the Americas and Europeans?
- What were the defining features of the Spanish, French, and Dutch empires in the Americas?

Chapter 2: European Colonies and Native Nations

- What were the goals and outcomes of 17th-century English colonization?
- What challenges did English settlers face in the Chesapeake?
- How did the New England colonies differ from other English settlements?
- What caused internal conflicts and divisions in early New England?

Chapter 3: Creating Anglo-America

- How and why did the English empire expand in the 1600s?
- In what ways was slavery institutionalized in the Western Atlantic?
- What political and social upheavals shook the colonies in the late 1600s?
- How did colonial society and economy evolve in the 18th century?
- What changes occurred in gender roles during this period?

Submission Instructions

Google Classroom Submission
(Details subject to change – final info will be posted by your teacher.)

- Class: AP USH 2026-27 _____
- Class Code: _____
- Due: August _____, 2026
- Submit: GML Notes (Ch. 1–3), clearly labeled

Reminders

- ***Do not copy/paste.*** All work must reflect your understanding.
- ***Paragraph form matters.*** Avoid lists or sentence fragments.
- ***Keep notes tight and focused.*** Aim for clarity over quantity.
- ***Take pride in your preparation.*** This is your first step toward a successful APUSH year.

We're excited to begin the journey with you. Welcome to APUSH!
– The Warde APUSH Team