

Marion P Thomas Charter High School

History Department

United States History II



United States History II Summer 2026 Assignment

This USH II summer assignment is designed to help students master historical thinking skills and content. Students must assess historical continuities/ discontinuities, develop comparative analysis, and identify and explain key events and their causative significance to historical experiences and events.

The summer assignment includes readings that explore the themes of national memory and Reconstruction. Students are strongly advised to read the assigned readings actively. **NOTE: Completion of the summer assignment is factored into student grades as an exam for term 1 of the 2026-27 school year.**

Summer Course Assignment

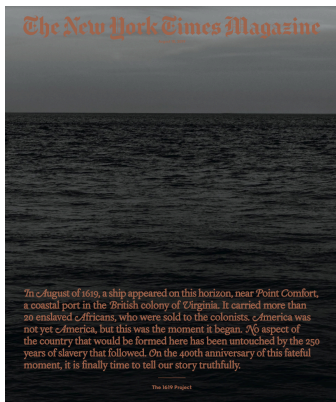
Part 1: Readings

Actively read each of the following essays. As you do, be sure to identify the arguments put forward by each author and assess how each employs evidence in support of the claims. The themes discussed in all three historiographical essays will serve as the core of our discussions and analyses in both your ELA and history courses this coming school year.

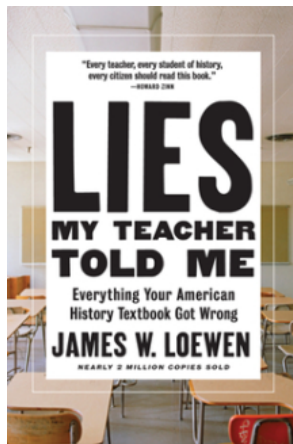
Part 2: Analysis

[All junior students are required to complete an analysis of the readings using the link to this Google form.](#)

NOTE: Students will need to log into their MPTCHS account to access the readings and the Google form.



[“The Idea of America,” by Nikole Hannah-Jones in *The 1619 Project*](#)
(Read the bottom of pages 1, 4-5, 7, and pages 14-22).



[“Dunning and Reconstruction”](#)
in James Loewen, *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*



1840
WHY IS AMERICA AFRAID OF BLACK HISTORY?
No one should fear a history that asks a country to live up to its highest ideals.
By Lonnie G. Bunch III

[“Why is America Afraid of Black History,”](#)
[by Lonnie G. Bunch III in *The Atlantic*](#)
[12/23]

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Things to know:

- **Each part of the summer assignment will be graded as an exam.**
- Reading analyses are due by September 8, 2026 [The window to submit your responses to the analysis questions on the Google Form will expire at midnight on September 2, 2026.

Strategies for Completing the Reading Analyses:

- As you read, annotate passages and define unfamiliar words, terms, and concepts.
- Be sure to read every page of each assigned reading.
- Read actively: Do not simply copy down sentences as you read. Stop, think about what you are reading, and write down the main idea expressed in that particular section. Re-read the passage if you are unsure of what the author is attempting to convey.
- REMEMBER Read actively and not as a passive couch potato.
- Take notes on the important information as you read. For example, write down each bold heading as you read and summarize what you read/learn from each section in 1-2 sentences.

About Plagiarism and AI-Generated Student Work

Submitted assignments that are suspected of plagiarism or AI-generated will result in zero grade, a referral, and are subject to further disciplinary actions and consequences.