

AP U.S. History I (2026–2027) – Summer Assignments

The West Essex AP United States History I (APUSH I) course covers American history from 1491 to 1877, aligning with the first five historical periods defined by the College Board. The remaining content will be completed in APUSH II during your junior year.

The primary goal of APUSH I is to help you develop a strong understanding of historical content while building the skills necessary for success on the AP Exam. Throughout the course, you will regularly work with primary and secondary sources, which are central to both classroom instruction and the AP exam itself. While these types of tasks may feel challenging at first, you will gain confidence and proficiency as the year progresses.

Compared to other levels of U.S. History I, this course moves at a faster pace, explores topics in greater depth, and incorporates college-level materials and expectations. To ensure we can cover all required content effectively, it is essential that we begin building foundational knowledge over the summer.

The summer assignments are designed to introduce you to the content and skills associated with **Historical Periods 1 and 2**. Completing this work in advance allows us to dedicate more class time during the school year to the topics most heavily emphasized on the AP Exam.

These assignments will help you practice essential APUSH skills, including:

- Critical reading
- Primary source analysis
- Note-taking
- Identifying historical perspectives
- Discussion and collaboration
- Analytical writing using historical reasoning (especially **comparison**)

All notes must be taken in a spiral bound noted book and other resources should be accessed on your classes **Google Classroom**. You must have your completed notebook with you on the first day of school.

Google Classroom Information

Please join your assigned Google Classroom using the code below:

- **Period 3 (729):** ucbxs7ub
- **Period 4 (729):** 3jbzpwnb
- **Period 7 (729):** qqmi5av2
- **Period 8 (729):** 7cbfxoqg

Overview of Summer Learning Tasks

A detailed explanation of each assignment is provided on page 2. Below is a summary of what you are expected to complete:

- Watch the **introductory course lecture** and review the AP Curriculum Framework
- Read assigned chapters from *The American Yawp* and take **handwritten notes**
- Complete all assigned **AP Topic Modules (1.1–2.2)** in Google Classroom
- Engage in a **historiography activity** comparing different historical perspectives

Important:

On the first day of school, you will take an open-note **Reading Check Quiz** based on your summer reading.

➡ **Only handwritten notes will be permitted** for this quiz (no typed notes).

The content covered in these assignments will:

- Serve as the foundation for your **first unit assessment**
- Prepare you for your **first AP-style essay**
- Represent approximately **5–7% of the AP Exam content**

We will work with this information to prepare you for your first assessment.

Communication

If you have any questions over the summer, please feel free to contact me at:

gcolucci@westex.org

Enjoy your summer, and I look forward to working with you in August.

Sincerely,

Mr. Colucci

Directions for Summer Assignments

Part 1: Reading – *The American Yawp*

- Read and take **handwritten notes** on:
 - Chapters **1 and 2**

Tips for Success:

- Keep your notes **organized and clearly structured**
- Focus on key ideas, not copying entire passages
- Well-organized notes will be extremely helpful for your **Reading Check Quiz**

Part 2: AP Topic Modules (1.1–2.2)

- All lessons will be posted in your assigned **Google Classroom** after the school year ends
- Complete **all assigned tasks** in each lesson (**7 total lessons**)

Each lesson will include:

- Instructional lectures (by Mr. Colucci)
- Supplemental videos
- Guided activities

Important:

- Add notes from videos and lectures to your notebook or directly onto assignments where indicated
- These modules introduce content that will appear on your **first test and first AP-style essay**

Part 3: Historiography Assignment

A key APUSH skill is the ability to **analyze and compare differing historical interpretations**.

For this assignment, you will examine two contrasting perspectives:

- *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn
- *A Patriot's History of the United States* by Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen

Your Task:

- Read the assigned excerpts from both works
- Complete all accompanying activities in Google Classroom

- Prepare for your first graded **Socratic Seminar discussion**

This assignment will help you:

- Identify **historical bias and perspective**
- Compare differing interpretations of the same events
- Develop skills in **discussion and evidence-based argumentation**