

American Studies Summer Work 2012



English Colony at Jamestown, Virginia
1607

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Advanced Placement American Studies Summer Reading

Dear 2012-2013 AP American Studies Students,

Welcome to AP American Studies. Over the course of the summer, you will read two major texts and three essays as well as view and critically analyze two films. You will also craft a few relatively short writing pieces in response to these materials. This writing should move beyond summary to demonstrate the critical thinking capabilities of **questioning, analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing**. All thoughts presented in your writing **must** be original, and if additional sources are referenced, you must cite them in proper **MLA format**. This work is a requirement of the course and must be completed by the first day of class. In addition, please be prepared to discuss these works and write about them in a meaningful manner.

PART 1: FWHS (school wide) Summer Reading

You will participate in the FWHS Summer reading book chat. Your 2010-2011 English teacher will provide you with the list of summer reading books and the required assignment.

PART 2: AP English Language and Composition

A. Crafting an Argument: The Origins of a Nation

Closely read and annotate the following three essays. Then, evaluate the effectiveness of the argument made. Consider the speaker, occasion, audience, purpose, and subject of the piece.

1. Creating Justification through Ethos (ethical appeal), Pathos (emotional appeal), and Logos (logical appeal):

John Winthrop "A Model of Christian Charity" (1630)

2. Coercing with Sentimental Appeal and Cultural Bias:

Mary Rowlandson excerpts from "Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration" (1682)

3. Utilizing Scare Tactics:

Jonathan Edwards' "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" (1741)

You will write a **separate** response for **each** of the essays (one-page **maximum**) addressing all of the following tasks:

- Identify the main claim of the essay.
- Evaluate how the **author's style and use of language** worked to accomplish his/her purpose.
- Research and describe how this essay reflected or rejected historical events or trends.

B. Judgmental Voices

Critically read, evaluate, and annotate The Scarlet Letter (Penguin Classics, Eds. Baym, Connolly). In three analytical responses, you will:

Respond to each of the following three directives. EACH response should be a ONE TYPED PAGE essay, citing as many specific examples and/or quotes from the work as needed to support your point. The evidence from the work is your proof that you read and analyzed the work as you can isolate meaningful textual passages.

1. Choose a passage from the work that you feel delineates the author's purpose. Quote the passage; then explain the main point of the passage and analyze how it is the core of the novel.
2. Choose a passage from the work that best reflects the author's style. Quote it; then discuss the style, being sure to consider irony, tone, diction, formality, and sentence structure.
3. Choose the most striking passage of the work. Quote it; then explain why this particular passage resonated with you and reveal the larger sociological or historical implications of the passage.

C. On Good Writing and Thinking

This last reading component addresses the kind of writing we expect you to produce and the kind of thinking we expect you to engage in for this course. For AP American Studies, we value writing that shows a precision of language, focus of topic, use of relevant support, and a personal voice that reveals a critical and reflective outlook. For AP American Studies, we value the kind of thinking that shows authentic creativity and curiosity.

Read and annotate the following work in order to better clarify what we mean by “precision of language”:

- A. George Orwell’s “Politics and The English Language” (1946)

Read and annotate the following work in order to better understand what we mean by the type of student you should strive to become:

- B. Ralph Waldo Emerson “The American Scholar” (1837)

PART 3: American History Readings and Analysis

Task I In your text, *Inventing America*, you are to read and take notes on chapters 1-4. This will cover the period of early exploration in the western hemisphere, the competition for empire, as well as the settlement of North America and the development of colonial society.

For each chapter, you are expected to choose and write ONE essay. Each essay should be typed and its length should be approximately two pages. Read and use the handout distributed on writing an argumentative essay to guide your responses to the essay questions. Essays must have an introductory paragraph with background information on the topic, and a complex, compound thesis statement. Essays must also have supporting paragraphs that provide both evidence and analysis of the argument presented, as well as a conclusion.

Chapter 1 Men Prone to Wonder pages 5-35

Choose and write ONE of the following:

- A. What were the motives that drove European exploration during the 1400's and 1500's? What did the monarchs, the explorers themselves, and other parties hope to accomplish? What did they actually gain?
- B. Explain why the animals and plants (list/name several) of the New World become important in Europe, and what European animals and plants helped the New World.

The following questions should be used to guide your reading for Chapter 1 and are NOT to be answered in written format but understand these will appear in future assessments in class.

1. "With the dawn of the 16th century, there came together in Europe both the motivation and the means to explore and colonize territories across the seas." Assess the validity of this statement with respect to (a) religion, (b) trade, and (c) technology.
2. What natural resources, technological knowledge, and cultural strengths did various Native American peoples possess in the centuries before European conquest? Why were these things important?
3. What did the Europeans bring to the New World, in the way of both tangible and non-tangible items? What did they take home that influenced European culture?
4. What new knowledge did Europeans acquire in the process of their exploration? How did it affect their assumptions about the world?
5. "European colonists generally viewed the Native Americans as inferior people, who could be exploited for the benefit of the colonists." Assess the validity of this statement.

Chapter 2 The European Settlement of North America pages 36-72

Choose and write **ONE** of the following:

- A. What was the role of religious beliefs in the establishment of the American colonies? Be Specific. What were the limits of religious tolerance?
- B. Compare and contrast the history of settlement in the Chesapeake and in New England. What were the differences in government, culture, and social values?

The following questions should be used to guide your reading for Chapter 2 and are NOT to be answered in written format but understand these will appear in future assessments in class.

1. What was the link between the Reformation in Europe and the settlement of America? How did the split between Catholics and Protestants affect life in the New World?
2. In what ways did the English colonies develop differently from the Spanish and French colonies?
3. What problems did the first colonists in Jamestown face? How did they cope?
4. "From the beginning, the English colonies had democratic characteristics." Assess the validity of this statement with reference to majority rule and representative government in Virginia and Massachusetts.
5. Discuss the nature of the Puritans' religious beliefs. How did those beliefs shape the communities they created in America? What did the notion of a "city on a hill" mean?

Chapter 3 Empires pages 73-104

Choose and write **ONE** of the following:

- A. Describe settlers' relationships with Native Americans during this period, with specific reference to King Philip's War and Bacon's Rebellion. What do such episodes suggest about the tensions inherent in American life of the 1600s and about the problems of government?
- B. What was at stake in the rivalries between England, Spain, and France in this period? How were Americans involved? How were Native Americans involved?

The following questions should be used to guide your reading for Chapter 3 and are NOT to be answered in written format but understand these will appear in future assessments in class.

1. How did changes of reign in Britain during the 1600's affect policy toward the New World settlements? How was life in the settlements affected? Be specific. How did the Crown attempt to maintain control over distant territories, and what complications arose?
2. Compare and contrast the English relationship and the French relationship with the Native Americans.

3. "Beginning with the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, the English government made a continuous effort to exercise control over its American colonies." Give examples to prove this statement.
4. What happened in Salem in 1692, and why? What does it reveal about the structure of colonial society? What does it reveal about the beliefs and fears of Americans at that time?
5. How did British rulers envision the proper economic relationship between their country and the American colonies? How did their assumptions and decisions affect Americans, and how did people react? Discuss the Navigation Acts and their effect.

Chapter 4 Benjamin Franklin's World pages 103-136

Choose and write **ONE** of the following:

- A. Compare and contrast the systems of indentured servitude and slavery as they existed in colonial America. What were the similarities and differences? What role did race and ethnicity play in these systems? How did the existence of these systems shape colonial economic development and social conditions?
- B. Why were the wars fought by Britain and France not necessarily advantageous to the American colonists, and how did the results of the French and Indian War affect the colonists?

The following questions should be used to guide your reading for Chapter 4 and are NOT to be answered in written format but understand these will appear in future assessments in class.

1. What were the major factors driving colonial population growth during this period? How did this sizable population increase affect political, economic, and social conditions?
2. Why did slavery in the colonies grow more rapidly in the last decades of the 17th century than in the earlier decades of that century?
3. Evaluate the significance of Ben Franklin's science during the 18th century. What did it mean to both his fellow American colonists and his European intellectual counterparts?
4. Comment on the extent to which each of the following contributed to a more democratic society in the American colonies: (1) the Great Awakening (b) immigration (c) the Zenger case.
5. "The American colonists of the 18th century were slow to develop academic and artistic pursuits." Assess the validity of the this statement by commenting on THREE of the following

Architecture
Science

Literature
Education

Painting

You will be tested with multiple choice questions from the first 4 chapters in the first week of school when you return in August. Basically know your chapters well. I encourage you to utilize the questions provided for each of the chapters to guide your preparation for this assessment.

Task II Historical book analysis.

A Voyage Long and Strange by Tony Horwitz. This book will be distributed to you prior to summer.

Identify and type out what you believe was Horwitz's thesis of each chapter and what you believe to be the five (5) most significant historical points of each chapter. There are 13 chapters in total.

Part III. Required Books to Purchase

A People's History of the United States- Howard Zinn (purchase newest edition available)

United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination, by John J. Newman and John M. Schmalbach, published by Amsco School Publication, Inc (purchase most recent edition)