

### Summer 2017 Reading Assignment

The Advanced Placement United States History course serves as the equivalent of the college-level introductory American history survey. This course will demand that the student will develop his or her historical thinking skills, examine and evaluate primary and secondary sources, and demonstrate a deeper level of historical synthesis and analysis. The summer reading is structured to afford the student the opportunity to gain experience reading and working with important primary sources from the American experience.

1. SUMMER READING (due the second week of class)
  - a. The student will select and read either Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* and *The American Crisis* from December 23, 1776, **or** Frederick Douglass' *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. Any complete edition of either book is acceptable, as are later editions of Douglass' autobiography, such as *My Bondage and My Freedom*.
  - b. The student will complete the relevant reading questions, included in this document, on separate sheets of paper, handwritten in dark blue or black pen. Please write your answers in complete sentences, with the relevant page number in the book cited in parentheses at the end of each answer. At the end of the assignment, you will need to provide a complete bibliographic entry for the edition of the book which you used. The student will submit this assignment on the second week of class (August 23, 2017.) A complete bibliographic entry for a book is structured as follows:

Author last name, author first name. *Book title in italics*. Place of publication: Publisher, Year of publication.

2. MATERIALS FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
  - a. The student will need to bring a three ring binder for the syllabus, information on classroom rules and procedures, and other course materials.
  - b. The student also must bring a spiral or composition-style notebook with lined paper for taking notes in class. Copious notes from lecture and class discussion are required in the course, and will serve as part of the student's essential review materials for the AP U.S. History exam.
  - c. The student is expected to bring a writing utensil to class. All assignments are to be written in pen in dark blue or black ink.
  - d. A student is considered "on time" to class when that student is seated and prepared to work before the tardy bell. **Content instruction will begin the first day of class, and you will be expected to have the above materials with you.**

### **Thomas Paine Reading Questions**

Please answer the following questions in your own words using complete sentences.

#### Common Sense

1. What arguments does Paine make against monarchy?
2. Why does Paine include biblical examples of monarchy? What point is he making here?
3. What point is Paine making when he discusses William the Conqueror?
4. Why does Paine say that “Reconciliation and ruin are nearly related?” What does he mean here?
5. What is Paine’s plan of government for the new nation? How does it differ from the state that eventually developed?
6. Why did the British, according to Paine, defend America during the French and Indian War?
7. Would an independent America have a special mission in the world, in Paine’s view?

#### The American Crisis (December 23, 1776)

8. What is a “summer soldier” and “sunshine patriot?” What does Paine have to say about them?
9. What is Paine’s assessment of George Washington as a leader?
10. Why does Paine believe the war is still winnable?

### **Frederick Douglass Reading Questions**

Please answer the following questions in your own words using complete sentences.

1. What significance does Douglass place upon not knowing his age or date of birth?
2. Describe Douglass's familial relationships. How are they significant?
3. What is the role of the overseer on the plantation? How does Douglass describe his overseers?
4. Why does Mrs. Auld's treatment of Douglass change? What is significant about learning to read, and about restrictions on literacy?
5. How is Douglass's method of learning to read and write ironic?
6. Who is Mr. Covey, and why is Douglass's fight with Covey significant?
7. Why does Douglass not go into any detail concerning how he escaped slavery?
8. What is the role of religion in Douglass's argument? How does Douglass differentiate between his and the slaveholders' versions of Christianity?
9. What risks might Douglass be running in publishing this book?
10. What does Douglass want the reader to learn from reading this book? Why did Douglass write it?