

To: All Students enrolled in AP U.S. History for the 2018 - 2019 School Year

From: Mr. DiFalco

Date: June 21, 2018

Re: Your Summer Assignment

First of all, congratulations on earning your way into this course. I'm looking forward to a great year together. Please find below your summer assignments for this class. If you have any questions over the summer, please e.mail me as I will be checking my e.mail frequently. All of the below work should be done before the first day of class.

a) You need to read The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson. You will take a quiz on the book during the first week of classes

b) You need to read Chapter 22 of The American Pageant, 16th Edition. The title of the chapter is "The Ordeal of Reconstruction". Please note that I would like you to return the textbook you used this year and exchange it for the 16th Edition, which is an AP Edition. I would like you to have the 16th Edition at home over the summer.

c) Over the summer, I want you to begin the process of learning how to write a response to a Document-Based Question (A "DBQ"). To begin, please read the following description from the College Board about DBQ's:

"Section II, Part A of the AP Exam consists of the document-based question - an essay question that measures students' ability to develop and support an argument using historical source material as evidence. The question focuses on topics from Periods 3 - 8 of this course (from roughly 1754 - 1980). The seven documents included in the Document Based Question may include charts, graphs, cartoons, and pictures as well as written materials of varying length. These are chosen to illustrate interactions and complexities about the historical topic that is the subject of the question. In their responses, students should develop an argument about the question and utilize the documents to support this argument. Students should also explain elements of the authorship of the documents that affect their historical significance, such as point of view, purpose, historical situation, and / or audience. The document-based question also requires students to relate the documents to a historical period or theme and, thus, to focus on major periods and issues. For this reason, other knowledge about the topic being assessed, beyond the specific focus of the documents, is important and must be incorporated into students' essays to earn the highest scores." (AP U.S. History Course & Exam Description P. 132)

The above paragraph is a general description of the expectations within a good DBQ response.

Each DBQ also carries some further instructions that are specific to that DBQ and must also be taken into consideration. So there's a lot going on with DBQ's and we should begin addressing them as early as possible. That is why I need you to see me and pick up your first DBQ before you leave for summer break. Over the summer, I would like you to continue to familiarize yourself with the expectations / requirements of a good DBQ response and to begin formulating your response to the DBQ I've given you.

On the first day of school you need to submit the first paragraph of your response to the DBQ you've been given. You do not need to write anything more than the first paragraph. . . . but you need to type up the first paragraph and IT MUST CONTAIN YOUR THESIS.

Again, please e.mail me over the break if you have any questions about the summer work and thanks everyone.

Mr. DiFalco