

Summer Assignment
A.P. United States History
Mr. Fetherman & Mr. Sima

“History is the interpretation of the significance the past has for us”. With this thought in mind, I want you to compare and contrast two versions of American history; *A People’s History of the United States*, by Howard Zinn and *A Patriot’s History of the United States* by Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen. Both books can be purchased through local bookstores or the Internet.

Assignment 1: What is historiography?

Read “Introduction: History and Historians” from Conflict and Consensus in Early American History, by Davis and Woodman before reading the other assignments. This selection describes the work that historians do and explains what historiography is. After reading this chapter, create a well-developed response to each of the following questions:

- Why is the emphasis on “facts” insufficient for an understanding of history?
- What factors account for the differing interpretations of particular historical instances?
- What do the authors mean when they state that “coming to grips with conflicting interpretations of the past is more than an interesting classroom game...?”
- In what fundamental ways do conflict (revisionist) and consensus (traditional) oriented historians differ?

You can find “Introduction: History and Historians” online at my website on the Sparta Social Studies web page under AP Courses: Summer Assignment.

Assignment 2: How do I identify and evaluate an author’s point of view?

In *A People’s History of the United States*, read “Chapter 10 – *The Other Civil War*” through “Chapter 15 – Self-Help in Hard Times” and in *A Patriot’s History of the United States*, read “Chapter 12 – The Sinews of Democracy” through “Chapter 16 – Enlarging the Public Sector”. I encourage you to highlight, annotate, and pose questions along the way.

Next, you will write a scholarly paper. Select three chapters in each book that discuss the same topics and 1) summarize the authors’ point of view for each topic. 2) Compare and contrast how the authors treat each topic using specific evidence from the text. And 3) choose which authors’ point of view you agree with overall and defend your selection using at least 3 peer reviewed sources (the MRC’s website has directions on how to access databases and journals).

On Friday, September 9 you will hand in a paper with the following requirements:

1. Cover page
2. Typed, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font
3. Four to five pages in length
4. A Works Cited page listing at least 3 peer reviewed sources in MLA format

See attached rubric to ensure your essay meets or exceeds standards.

AP SUMMER ASSIGNMENT Essay Rubric

Characteristic	Score 10	Score 8	Score 6	Score 4
Thesis	Clear, well developed thesis	Contains a clear thesis with limited development	Lacks a thesis, or thesis may be confused or underdeveloped	No thesis
Analysis	Provides effective analysis of the question; some imbalance permissible	Limited analysis, mostly describes	Weak or inappropriate analysis	No analysis
Textual Evidence	Effectively analyzes significant text from the documents. Documents supplement analysis and support the argument.	Sufficiently uses some text from the documents; may only restate information found in documents or does not further the argument.	Poor use of textual evidence with only brief mention or paraphrase; not enough evidence used to support argument.	Almost no use of or inappropriate attempts to use text from the documents.
Supportive Information	Supports thesis with substantial, relevant information. Outside information is balanced with use of documents in the analysis of the question	Supports thesis with some factual information	Lacks supporting information, or information given is minimal	Incoherent, inappropriate responses
	Score 5	Score 4	Score 3	Score 2
Understanding of the Question	Understands complexity of the question; deals with all parts of the question in depth	Limited or lack of understanding of complexity; may deal with one part of the question in some depth, or in a more general way	Ignores complexity; may deal with one part of the question, or all elements of the question in a superficial way	May simply paraphrase or restate the question or does not address all aspects of the question
Grammar and Organization	Well organized and well written, may contain insignificant errors	Clearly organized and written, but not exceptional. May contain minor errors.	Weak organization and writing, may contain major errors	Disorganized and poorly written, contains many major or minor errors

Comments:

Total Score: _____ /50