



AP US HISTORY SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2009

Pick one of the above books to read. You may read the additional book for extra credit if you would like.

Books are (both available in paperback)

Mayflower by Nathaniel Philbrick: focus on the settlement of Plymouth as well as the period after settlement leading to war with the Native Americans

A Voyage Long and Strange: Tony Horwitz: focus on the period between Columbus and Plymouth (1492-1620)—how the Europeans explored and settled the new world in the 1500's.

Assignment.....

Both books chosen deal with the early period of settlement and colonization in the United States--late 1400's-1600's. They will help to serve as a bridge to the colonial period, which is where we begin our studies of American history.

Once you read it, you are to write a book review on the book—see attached for what a book review includes. This is not a book report. You want to purchase the book in order that you might underline and highlight in the book. Please make sure you bring the book to class on the 2nd day of school.

Due Date for the Assignment: 2nd Day of Class: September 2, 2009
This is your first test grade of the year!

Feeling ambitious? Read both of the books and you will get an extra credit grade for the additional book.

Book Review Guidelines

The Summary

The summary consists of a discussion of the major features, trends, themes, ideas, and characteristics. Use your own words. Combine ideas from the book into new sentences of your own. Avoid copying the original language, and put quotes around any that you do borrow. Summarizing is a good way to learn, to assimilate material, but the process doesn't work very well unless you translate the original into your own language. Generally, it is best when summarizing to follow the organization of the original. Your aim should be to give a true but condensed picture of the book, including the way it is organized.

The Critique

A critique consists of your thoughts, responses, and reactions to what you have read. The following questions are examples of the kind you should consider as you read your book and prepare the critique:

Please note that when writing this critique of the book, these questions should serve as guidelines. The answers to these questions should be written in essay form and not bullet points. I am also looking to see that you apply examples from the reading in your essay. Do not use outside sources. Pull your information directly from the summer reading.

Guideline Questions:

What is your overall opinion of the book, and why? How effectively and in what ways does the theme of the book or argument of the author reflect what you already know?

- How well has the author achieved his aims?
- Are these aims supported or justified?
- Does the author seem fair and accurate? Is there any distortion, exaggeration, or diminishing of material?
- Is the overall interpretation biased, subjective, slanted, or objective?

- Does the author try to look at both sides of the issue?
- Is the book interesting or boring, and why? Does the material presented raise your curiosity about the subject, and why?
- Is there enough information in the book?
- Is the subject treated thoroughly or summarily?
- Did you feel satisfied, disappointed, or puzzled by the book, and why? How well is the book written? (Should you use quotes as examples, keep them very short -- preferably no more than one sentence.)
- Is there anything distinctive or noteworthy about the book? (Provide useful examples.)

1.5 test grade—quarter one grade

In addition, we will have a quiz on this book during the first week of school

Format

- Typed, Size 12 font, 1.5 line spacing, 3 page minimum, Cover Page, Citations as needed
- No email submissions please

My e-mail for questions is slarsen@rockport.k12.ma.us. E-mail this address if you have questions on the reading throughout the summer.

Thanks to: <http://www.csun.edu/~vceed002/lab/apeh.html> for help on this assignment