

Advanced Placement United States History Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP US History! I am looking forward to a very successful year next year. In addition to reading the class expectations, they will need to be signed by you and your parents and turned in on the first day of school in September. You must also return the signed parent letter as well on the same day. The following summer assignment must be totally completed and turned in on Day 1 in September as well:

This summer assignment, worth two test grades, must be completed and turned in on the first day of school in September. If it is not turned in on Day 1, then 20 points will be deducted for each day (not block) that the assignment is late. *You will need to sign out a copy of the textbook this week before Friday.* See me in Room 230 or the Social Studies Office to get your book.

Part 1- 50%

Read the first 5 chapters of the text (American Pageant). Take good, detailed notes (handwritten!) on what you read. Keep these notes in a loose leaf binder that you will use in class next year. Chapters 1-5 deal with the period from Exploration and Settlement of the Americas through the Colonial Period. Your notes should include details (important people, dates, themes, events, themes, etc.). Take notes only after **READING** the chapters and do not resort to using online notes, etc. as a crutch. **STUDENTS WHO DON'T READ THE BOOK WILL NOT DO WELL IN THIS COURSE...I PROMISE.** These notes will be graded on neatness, clarity, and thoroughness.

Part 2- 50%

Part 2 involves writing a fictitious 500 word letter using the information below:

BOATS 'R US...Colonial Relocation Services, Inc.

Congratulations! You have been hired in London as a relocation agent for BOATS 'R US...CRS, Inc.. This company has sent you on a long, long scouting trip (anytime between 1607 and 1720) to the North American colonies. You have just returned to London and your favorite client, Lord Pearson, has requested that you write him a letter about your experiences in **ONE** of the colonies since he plans on taking up residence in the New World for a few generations. Obviously Lord Pearson is a wise and enterprising young man, but he needs your assistance in picking a place he can call home. As a professional, you are concerned about his future happiness so you should be careful to warn him about some of the pitfalls in this colony, and perhaps you may wish to share some advice on achieving political and personal success.

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Other things of interest to your client may include the following:

- **Physical geography**
- **Types of people in the colony**
- **Social structure**
- **Key colonial leaders**
- **Economic pursuits/opportunities**
- **Religious climate**
- **Organization of the colony (towns, etc.)**
- **Hardships, problems**
- **Governmental structure**
- **ETC.**

Your letter should be 500 words in length and it may be written during the timeframe of 1607-1720. (Obviously, colonies had different founding dates and your “window” may be as open or closed as you would like). Be creative, include historical details (facts), and have fun! I look forward to reading your letter.

Reminders of what to bring on Day One in September:

- **Class Expectations- Signed by you and your parent/guardian**
- **Parent Letter- Signed by parent/guardian**
- **Summer Assignment- Notes (Ch. 1-5) and Colonial Letter**

I look forward to working with you during your junior year. This demanding, yet rewarding, course will require a great deal of preparation and self-discipline. You will have an excellent opportunity to enrich your knowledge of US History and gain COLLEGE CREDIT by passing the end-of-the-year AP USH Exam.

Have a great summer!

Mr. Pearson