

Instructor: *M Burchett@thewcs.org*

Advanced Placement- United States History Course

2017-2018

Summer Assignment:



(Overview) About the AP U.S. History Course AP U.S. History is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university U.S. history course. In AP U.S. History students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical comparisons; and utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course also provides seven themes that students explore throughout the course to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society.

(NAT-1.0) Learning Objectives for students are that you can explain how ideas about democracy, freedom, and individualism found expression in the development of cultural values, political institutions, and American identity.

Task: (Directions) using the prompt below write a compare/contrast essay based on the national identity that the United States faced during three separate time periods.

Prompt: Compare the greatest challenges that American democracy faced in 1805, 1905, and 2005. Which challenges are essentially the same, and which are radically new?

Make sure to include:

- 1) Thesis Statement- present a thesis that makes a historically defensible claim and responds to all parts of the question. (2pts)
- 2) Historical thinking skills- develop and support an argument that applies historical think skills as directed by the question. (2pts)
- 3) Supporting the argument with evidence-utilize specific examples of evidence to fully and effectively substantiate the stated thesis or a relevant argument. (2pts)
- 4) Synthesis-extend the argument by explaining the connections between the argument and a different historical period, situation, era, or geographical area-OR- the political, economic, social, cultural, or intellectual aspects of history. (2 pts)
- 5) Make sure to include your conclusion (summary) paragraph and answer your thesis statement. (2 pts)

*Test Grade Worth-Total 10 Pts=100%

Due: Upon return to school