

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! All Interested AP U.S. History Students Summer Assignment DUE: The First Day of School

WELCOME.... to a rigorous but extremely rewarding study of our nation. As you may have heard, this is a college-level course that requires students to cover a great deal of content in a very short amount of time. In order to get the most out of our discussion on the first day of school, you will need to bring this completed assignment with you to class.

We will begin our study of United States history with a discussion of our American identity. Newspapers and magazine articles provide some of the best ways to identify our country's current values. While you are encouraged to read books relating to themes in American history during this time (I have several suggestions for those who are interested), the main text I would like you to read this summer is the newspaper. Read it weekly or even daily. Whatever you do, try to read it consistently. Knowledge of contemporary America will be needed to complete one of the following options.

OPTION #1: THE GREAT AMERICAN COLLAGE [35 points]

- ✓ **Consistently read newspaper and/or magazine sources; listen to the radio, live/travel abroad and look at “America” or “Americans” from a more objective perspective; visit museums; or watch the news in an effort to get a better feel for what it means to be American in today’s world.** Try to make your exposure to this information as broad as possible (consider articles from all sections of a newspaper: op-ed, sports, arts and entertainment, politics, international). In your quest to grasp the “American identity”, you are encouraged to explore a variety of sources: *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *San Diego Union Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *US Magazine*, *People*, *National Enquirer*, *Cosmo*, *Seventeen*, NPR, movies....
- ✓ **Define identity and then explain your view of American identity in a 1-2 page written response that is clearly based on the information you’ve gathered from your readings or from other various sources.** *No in text citation is needed unless you make a direct quote.*
- ✓ **Include a works cited page that lists the different sources you read in MLA format.** Please refer to the formatting style at the bottom of this page.
- ✓ **Represent the written understanding of American identity you completed above in the form of a collage (carefully arranged quotes and or images/symbols) whose meaning and arrangement you would then explain to the class.**

Grading will be based on the depth of your insight as well a clear, meaningful representation of modern day examples that illustrate your informed perception of American identity. The written response, bibliography page, and collage will be graded.

OPTION #2: MONITOR THE 2012 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN [35 points]

- ✓ **Consistently scan a variety of newspapers over the summer in search of 2012 election coverage.**
- ✓ **Attach four highlighted articles to your explanation.** You are also encouraged to listen to the radio and to watch the news in an effort to gain more information about these candidates.
- ✓ **Attach a works cited page to a 4-5 page response that addresses ONE of the following prompts:**
 - Using the articles you've come across over the summer, discuss the main issues that seem to be highlighted in this upcoming election and what each candidate's views on those issues are. Consider whether or not their view matches their political party's stance on that issue. Then explain which candidate's views/rationale appeal to you the most.
 - Follow the reporting of the candidates (2-3) in a variety of newspapers or magazine sources. Based on their coverage of these candidates over a set time period, do certain papers or magazines seem to favor one candidate over another? Do you think such reporting shapes public opinion? Be sure to explain your rationale thoroughly.
 - Of the candidates running for the presidency in 2012, which one do you think has the best chance of winning? [eg. How much do their views match those in their party and does that matter? Consider personality, age, appeal, public opinion, and political experience as well.] How did the articles you read help inform your thinking? Do you think this candidate is the best person to deal with the current issues in our country and our world? Be sure to explain your opinion thoroughly.

Grading will be based on the depth of your insight along with a clearly expressed knowledge of the current 2012 presidential candidates gleaned from newspapers articles. The highlighted articles, bibliography page and the written response will all be graded.

Suggested Citation Formats

Magazines

Author's last name, first name. "Title of the article." *Magazine* Day Month Year: pages.

Jones, Bob. "Living with Two Common Names." *Time* 15 June 2007: 50-55.

Newspapers

Author's last name, first name. "Title of the article." *Newspaper* Day Month Year:
Section in the newspaper.

Hilton, Paris. "From Simple Life to Jail Life." *Los Angeles Times* 15 June 2007: A3.

*Please refer to the OWL Purdue MLA website for further details or for citation formats in regards to TV shows, radio shows, and movies.