

May 7, 2018

Dear Young Scholar:

Welcome to the world of **Advanced Placement United States History!** I am glad that you have made the commitment to take a course that I immensely enjoy teaching and for which I have taken part in the College Board Reading several times.

I will be preparing by reviewing last year's materials and making choices about how to enrich the course. To help you prepare for this rigorous course, I am assigning most of Colin Woodward's *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America* as summer reading.

This book has received many favorable reviews. The review by *The Boston Globe* called it "a smart read that feels particularly timely now." *Library Journal* declared that it had "[w]ell researched analysis with appeal to both casual and scholarly readers." *The Christian Science Monitor*, meanwhile, concluded that the author has provided "[A] fascinating new take on history."

You may purchase it on Amazon or a bookstore. You might go to a library to check it out. (Interlibrary loan might be necessary.)

Please take a few minutes to review the directions and rubrics for the two assignments that go with the reading. I have tried to make everything clear because I want to help you understand how to gain as much as possible from the summer reading—and earn a good score on the assignments, too.

Please know that I will be in Tampa from Friday, June 1st through Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> to take part in reading more than a million AP essays—literally. If you have any questions, then feel free to stop by Room 221 or Room 217 (the little workroom by the stairs) before or after I take that voyage.

Also, please feel free to e-mail me during the summer at [kaplank@doversherborn.org](mailto:kaplank@doversherborn.org). I only will check e-mail three or four times during the summer, but I will respond to your messages. ☺

Again, welcome to the course! I look forward to meeting all of you!

Sincerely,

Keith Valentine Kaplan, NBCT

P. S. We need to hit the ground running when the school year begins. If you misplace any of these materials, then please download whatever you need from my school web site at <http://dshskvkaplan.weebly.com/>. Since you have all summer to do this, there are no good excuses you or any adults in your life can offer as to why you could not complete the assignment on time.

☺ ☺ ☺ AP US HISTORY SUMMER 2018 READING FESTIVAL ☺ ☺ ☺

I am so pleased to be teaching this course once again and look forward to working with all of you! You have an *outstanding* summer assignment for Advanced Placement United States History.

The book that you will enjoy reading is Colin Woodward's *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*.

Please realize the following:

- (1) the reading is a reasonable length (around 250 pages—I know that you also have other summer reading, too) but lengthy enough to show you have the **work ethic** to handle a college-level course while still in high school; and
- (2) this will provide a **meaty introduction** to modern US history since the author typically provides just the right amount of detail as well as thought-provoking analysis about the significance of the material discussed

The two assignments are worth **40 test points** and are due **on the first day that your class meets (this might be the first day of school)**. It is probably easier to take notes as you read and then do the assignment, but know that I am collecting neither your notes nor any drafts that you do. **Please print out your work BEFORE you come to class.** If you are unable to print your work, then please e-mail your work as a Word document to avoid earning a late penalty on the first assignment.

Please feel free to drop by Room 221 or Room 217 (the workroom by the stairs) to ask questions about the book or the assignments before the school year ends.

Also, please send me an e-mail at [kaplank@doversherborn.org](mailto:kaplank@doversherborn.org) with your name and birthday so that I know you read and understood these directions. Thanks! Have a great summer!

Again, I earnestly hope that you are looking forward to this course as much as I am.

Best wishes for a summer that brings you intellectual challenges and time to relax.

## ASSIGNMENT A:

A full round of *Jeopardy!* has six categories of questions. Each category has five questions in ascending order of difficulty. Hence, you will be writing a grand total of 30 questions.

Each question should include ONE of the following:

- a primary quote from a history figure or an ordinary American who lived through the event,
- a statistic, or
- a conclusion or evaluation by the author (maybe directly quoted, maybe paraphrased).

Please have some fun naming the categories of questions and grouping the quotes appropriately. If you never have seen *Jeopardy!*, then you might want to watch an episode or look at an online version. (There might even be an app version for phones.)

Your questions should address material in Chapters One through 12.

### EXAMPLE OF ONE CATEGORY OF QUESTIONS

#### ***Uncommon Sense***

- 200 This freshman teacher has noted that “An understanding of the World Trade Organization begins with an understanding of the Silk Road.” *Who is Magda Andrews?* (224).
- 400 This coach has concluded that “Playing review games before tests is much like practicing free throws before big games since both reward those who have invested time and effort to prepare.” *Who is Roger Grady?* (241).
- 600 This advisor has argued that “Joining the National Honor Society is like eating sushi with extra wasabi—it is not for everyone.” *Who is Liza Melad?* (171).
- 800 This vegetarian believes that “Hartford’s Festival of Bacon should be outlawed.” *Who is Bob O’Hagan?* (221).
- 1000 This frequent traveler has claimed that “I once went a full year living on meals that could only be properly prepared using a wok.” *Who is Beatrice Vizulis?* (202).

The rubric (scoring guidelines) for Assignment A is on the next page.

## RUBRIC (SCORING GUIDELINES) FOR ASSIGNMENT A

### ***The 19 or higher work***

- ✓ Shows insight in cleverly naming categories of questions and categorizing the questions
- ✓ Accurately transcribes primary quotes, statistics, and conclusions of the author found in the relevant chapters and consistently correctly identifies the question; the chapters receive relatively comparable attention
- ✓ Provides an appropriate clue in the question
- ✓ Is free or nearly free of language errors (e.g., errors in spelling, punctuation, or grammar)
- ✓ Accurately cites the page(s) on which information was found using correctly formatted parenthetical citations

### ***The 16 to 18 work***

- ☺ Shows thought in naming categories of questions and categorizing the questions
- ☺ Generally accurately transcribes primary quotes, statistics, and conclusions of the author found in the relevant chapters and correctly identifies the question; a few chapters might be noticeably underrepresented
- ☺ Usually provides an appropriate clue in the question
- ☺ Might include a few language errors (e.g., errors in spelling, punctuation, or grammar)
- ☺ Accurately cites the page(s) on which information was found using generally correctly formatted parenthetical citations

### ***The 13 to 15 work***

- Might show little thought in naming categories (e.g., “Famous Quotes”) or categorizing the questions
- Might completely miss one or more of the relevant chapters
- Might not provide an appropriate clue in the question
- Might include many language errors (e.g., errors in spelling, punctuation, or grammar)
- Might inaccurately cite the page(s) on which one or two quotes were found or use incorrectly formatted parenthetical citations

### ***The 12 or lower work***

- ☹ Might fail to meet the standards for an Advanced Placement course by offering an incomplete submission or work that provides little evidence of having read or thought about the book

## ASSIGNMENT B:

Nominate ONE artifact to be placed in a time capsule that reflects your understanding of the material addressed in each of the following chapters: Chapter 13 through Chapter 22.

The artifact might be explicitly mentioned in the chapter; it does not have to be.

Please quote or paraphrase relevant passages that support your nomination and cite the relevant pages where the information appeared.

*EXAMPLE:* A sweatshirt from the school store would be an appropriate artifact to represent Raider Nation. Though the nation was founded in the 1960s when the school was built, its school store did not begin selling gear until the 2000s. Furthermore, Raider Nation's population did not really grow until the 2010s when people from Panem began arriving (134-135). During the winter of 2014-2015, Raider Nation's residents, including the new arrivals, faced an "uncommonly brutal winter" in which some wore these sweatshirts every day, helping to unify the newcomers with those who arrived first (137).

Please realize that you should write and proofread a total of 60-100 words for each of the ten chapters. Longer responses tend to be repetitive and/or reflect murky thinking, and I am hoping to see you at your clearest and most analytical.

Below is a published sample time capsule involving events in 2014 to give you some ideas as to how people make decisions about time capsules. Notice that the artifacts vary considerably in size.

**WORLD ALMANAC EDITORS' PICKS**  
**2014 Time Capsule**

The editors of *The World Almanac* have selected the following items as representative of the year 2014.

- A biohazard suit intended to protect a medical worker from contact with the highly contagious bodily fluids of a patient diagnosed with the Ebola virus.
- The distinctive Vivienne Westwood hat worn by Pharrell Williams in his performance of the chart-topping single "Happy" during the Grammy Awards ceremony Jan. 26.
- The black box from Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which disappeared Mar. 8 with 239 people aboard.
- An assortment of ballots cast—to opposite results—in the Crimea independence referendum Mar. 16 and the Scotland independence referendum Sept. 18.
- Digital evidence from 2014's many sports scandals, including the recording released Apr. 25 of L.A. Clippers owner Donald Sterling making racist remarks to a friend and the video released Sept. 8 of Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice striking his then-fiancée in a casino elevator.
- Italian defender Giorgio Chiellini's World Cup jersey, with the bite mark on its shoulder courtesy of Uruguay's Luis Suárez in group-stage play June 24.
- A large vessel of ice and water, to be used in yet another "ice bucket challenge" video; the viral campaign raised \$115 mil in donations to the ALS Assn. July-Oct.
- A dancing baby Groot toy to represent *Guardians of the Galaxy*, which earned \$94.3 mil at the box office during its opening weekend in Aug. on its way to becoming the summer's highest grossing film.
- A collection of protesters' signs and law enforcement riot gear from the demonstrations in the aftermath of the Aug. 9 shooting of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO.
- Banners carried during the People's Climate March in New York City, which sought to call attention to international action on global climate change Sept. 21.
- The bat that NY Yankee Derek Jeter used to hit a game-winning single in the final home game of his 20-year career Sept. 25.
- A ballot from each of the states that elected a Republican to a seat formerly held by a Democrat in the U.S. Senate Nov. 4, giving the GOP a majority of both chambers in the next Congress.

## RUBRIC (SCORING GUIDELINES) FOR ASSIGNMENT B

### ***The 19 or 20 work***

- ✓ Reflects well-thought out choices as to which artifacts to include in the time capsule for the ten relevant chapters
- ✓ Effectively uses one or two passages in the chapter to provide a **succinct** yet convincing justification for inclusion of each artifact and cites the appropriate pages using appropriate parenthetical citations
- ✓ Demonstrates a high standard of craftsmanship through clear and **concise** prose that is free or nearly free of language errors (e.g., errors in spelling, punctuation, or grammar) [under 1,000 words]

### ***The 16 to 18 work***

- ☺ Reflects defensible choices as to which artifacts to include in the time capsule for the ten relevant chapters
- ☺ Uses one or two passages in the chapter to provide a thoughtful justification for inclusion of each artifact and cites the appropriate pages
- ☺ Demonstrates a respectable standard of craftsmanship through generally clear prose that includes no more than a few language errors (e.g., errors in spelling, punctuation, or grammar) but might have some wordy passages [possibly more than 1,000 words]

### ***The 13 to 15 work***

- Might include some artifacts that show partial understanding or even misunderstanding of the book
- Might not effectively use passages in the book to justify the choices or might fail to cite a few passages
- Might demonstrate a low standard of craftsmanship through unclear prose that includes many language errors (e.g., errors in spelling, punctuation, or grammar) or have many wordy passages [noticeably more than 1,000 words]

### ***The 12 or lower work***

- ☹ Might fail to meet the standards for an Advanced Placement course by offering an incomplete submission or work that provides little evidence of having read or thought about the book