

## Summer Assignment Packet

Advanced Placement US History (APUSH) is a demanding college level course that provides excellent training for your future undergraduate college studies. Success in APUSH requires students commit a great deal of time and effort to the required class work. Given the large historical scope of the required content that will be covered, the APUSH reading requirement is the largest commitment for successful AP students, along with the ability to interpret and analyze various text sources and primary source documents. The second requirement for success is the ability to write well: confidently and skillfully developing and defending an argument, not just present a collection of factual statements. The APUSH Summer Assignment packet is designed to address those two issues.

### Section One: Chapters 1 - 3 in our main textbook, *The American Pageant*

To get a jump-start on pushing through the extensive content that must be covered in the course, APUSH students will be reading the initial chapters dealing with European exploration and early colonization efforts in the "New World." *The American Pageant* is a true college-level textbook, the chapters are lengthy, dense and presented in a narrative style.

Suggested procedure: Read the chapter "overview" page first. The **Chapter Themes** are essentially "thesis" statements, the essential understandings of the full chapter. The **Chapter Summary** is self-explanatory - reading the **Themes** and the **Summary** sections first will help focus your attention on the "big picture" in advance, as it is easy to get lost in the very detailed chapter presentation of historical information. When you have finished the actual chapter from the textbook, complete the "**Guidebook**" exercises that have been provided. It's best to complete the Guidebook sections in pencil, as some of the questions can be difficult. The Guidebook is provided to students as a review tool. Making a good effort to complete and study the Guidebook before APUSH exams should replace the necessity for students to outline the textbook chapters! Finally, take a look at the **Discussion Questions** that are the bottom of the chapter overview pages. These critical-thinking questions are used for classroom discussions and assigned writing throughout the year and provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their mastery and understanding of the content. There is no need to complete these questions over the summer. Note: Each chapter overview page also provides several short **biographies** of some of the important or interesting historical personalities presented in that chapter ... though these biographies are not required reading, they do provide some very interesting information and present a fuller picture of the background and motives of these important individuals.

### Section Two: Outside Reading (Historical Fiction) *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

Students will read the famous play based on the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. The first major course Project and an assessment exam based on *The Crucible* will also be scheduled at the beginning of the new school year.