

A.P. United States History

Summer Program

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Completion of summer work is a requirement for this class. This work comprises the first grade of the semester. Please e-mail me if you have questions or problems, or if you need clarification on anything. If I don't respond to your e-mail right away, do not worry. I will respond to you usually within a few days.

All work must be typed, written in third person, and completed by the *first* day of class. Double-space the Zinn essay. You may single- or double-space the paragraph responses. Use parenthetical citations (MLA format) to cite page numbers *for the Zinn essay only*. Staple all work together, with the article paragraph responses *on top*. Do not wait until the last minute to do this project. It will take approximately 5-15 hours to complete.

Note that a page length requirement is not provided for this essay. This is a good opportunity to make a positive impression and show your A.P. teacher that you are ready for this class. Consider this your primary essay.

Part One: Howard Zinn Essay

You will choose **three** chapters from *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn (use the complete U.S. History version, not just the 20th century version), and answer the following prompt. This will introduce you to the collegiate-level concept of historiography. Find chapters that contain information that is of interest to you, and be sure to reference *which* chapters you read. Please be sure to include specific examples from the book in your essay; however, **DO NOT** quote at great length or too often. Direct quoting ad nauseum displays a lack of original thinking and writing, and an overall inability to analyze and critically assess.

Prompt: There are many interpretations and views on Howard Zinn and his book, *A People's History of the United States*. The most straightforward view of the book is that it is an alternative history, or a "history from below". To what extent is this characterization valid? What is your view of Zinn and this type of history after reading this book?

Helpful hint: Think of a "history from below" historical interpretation as opposed to a "history from above". Who is the focus of Zinn's history? How does his work reflect this alternate version of history? Does it reflect an alternate version of history? To what extent does it reflect an alternate view?

Part Two: Article Analysis

To introduce you to period 1 content, we will discuss the following article within the first days of class. Access the article based on Charles Mann's book, [1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus](#), and answer **three** of the following five questions, each in paragraph format:

www.theatlantic.com/magazine/print/2002/03/1491/302445/

1. How has the historiography (historical interpretation) of the native changed over the years?
2. What evidence of the Columbian Exchange does Mann discuss? Provide numerous and various examples.
3. Evaluate why the seven anthropologists, archeologists, and historians would rather have been a typical native as compared to a typical European in 1491.
4. Summarize this article in 8-10 sentences.
5. How has this article changed your perception of native society? (This may be answered in first person.)