

**Perth Amboy High School  
AP United States History  
Summer Reading Assignment**

Advanced Placement United States History is a college level course. Suffice it to say, it is a challenging and rigorous program of studies. One of the main objectives of the course is to prepare students for the AP History Exam in May 2016. As the sagacious Sun Tzu once said, "Victory is reserved for those who are willing to pay its price." By enrolling in this challenging course, it is assumed that you are willing to invest time and effort to excel in both the course and the AP Exam.

**Summer Assignment**

**Your task is to read one of the listed books and to write a book review. The assignment is due on September 15, 2015.** Excluding the cover page, your paper must be 4-5 pages (double space). Send an electronic copy to [franjoseph@paps.net](mailto:franjoseph@paps.net) and submit a hard copy in class. This assignment counts as a test grade (100 points) for the First Marking Period. Use the links below to quickly locate the books on-line. If you prefer to read in a more traditional mode, multiple visits to your local library or Barnes & Noble might be in order.

**Below are your choices for the book review:**

Option A.

*The Red Badge of Courage*, Stephen Crane

<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/73>

Option B.

*The Jungle*, Upton Sinclair

<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/140>

Option C.

*The Influence of Sea Power Upon History*, Alfred T. Mahan

<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/13529>

Option D.

*The Souls of Black Folk*, W. E. B. Du Bois

<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/408>

Option E.

*Women and the New Race*, Margaret Sanger

<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/8660>

### **Format**

Use font size 12 and double space your paper. Organize your paper into three parts:

Part I: Introduction

Part II: Summary of the Content

Part III: Evaluation Section

### **Please include the following features on your cover page:**

AP American History Book Review

The title of the book

Your name

Date

Period

### **Book Review Assignment**

#### **Writing Tips**

The main purpose of a book review is to analyze the content of the book and to prove to your audience that you have reflected on what you read and how the material was presented. There are many ways to write a book review. Again, for simplicity's sake, organize your paper into three parts.

#### **Part 1: Introduction**

Begin your review with a bibliographic entry.

- 1) Title, Author, Subject, Length, and Publication Date
- 2) Summarize the book.

#### **Part 2: Summary of the Content** (Include the following)

- 1) Describe how the book is organized.
- 2) What is the theme of the book? In other words, what is the main idea?
- 3) Is the author attempting to make an argument? If so, what is the argument and how does he or she support it?
4. What is the thesis? The thesis is a statement of the author's point of view with regard to the subject matter.
5. Describe the writer's style. Was it formal or informal?
6. Assess the quality of the writing.

#### **Part 3: Evaluation of the Book**

1. Examine author's particular bias or point of view.  
Did the author have an agenda or purpose for writing the book?
2. Why did the author write the book? Who is the targeted audience?
3. Did the book affect you at all? Did it challenge any preconceived notion you had on the subject matter?

4. Was the author convincing in his/her arguments? Provide evidence from the book to support your conclusion.
5. What special interest group in American society would agree or disagree with the author's thesis at the time of the first publication? Explain.
6. In your opinion, is this a well written book? Would you recommend the book to anyone? Explain.
7. What did you learn from this book that helps you better understand American History? How have your opinion about the topic changed as a result of reading the book?
8. Were the topics and themes discussed in the book still relevant today in American society? Explain.
9. What does the book reveal about life in the United States at the time it was written?
10. What possibilities does the book suggest? What matters does the book leave out? Explain.
11. If you were given the opportunity to ask the author two questions about the book, what two questions would you ask?

Please click on the link below for a more detailed explanation on how to write a book review and for additional assistance. **\*\*\*MUST READ\*\*\*\*\*MUST READ\*\*\***

<http://www.kean.edu/~cpdonova/HowtoWriteaBookAnalysis.pdf>

<b>Book Review</b>	<b>4-Highly Competent</b>	<b>3-Competent</b>	<b>2-Minimally Competent</b>	<b>1-Not Competent</b>
<b>Thesis 15%</b>	Clearly identifies and critically evaluates the author's central argument, purpose, and approach to the subject	Identifies but not does not critically evaluate the author's central argument, purpose, and approach to the subject	Identified a few main ideas but not the thesis	Is unaware of the author's thesis or the purpose of the book. The review is descriptive but not analytical
<b>Organization 20%</b>	The review is exceptionally well organized with an introduction, body, and conclusion and follows the thesis throughout	The review is reasonably well organized	The view has a semblance of structure but its coherence is minimized by poor organization	The review is disorganized and incoherent
<b>Development 40%</b>	A general analysis of the salient features of the book, as opposed to a general summary, and identifies the development of the author's thesis throughout the book	Demonstrates knowledge of the topic and provides supporting evidence and adequate detail	Minimal analysis, is repetitious, or and lacks development of salient features of the book being reviewed	No analysis, but merely a description of summary of the book's content
<b>Style 10%</b>	Sophisticated sentence structure and paragraph development	Effective Use of Language	Simplistic sentence structure and imprecise use of language	Incorrect sentence structure and use of slang, jargon, or inappropriate language
<b>Mechanics 15%</b>	The mechanics of the paper are correct. It is well written with no	Few errors	Errors are present that interfere with the presentation of ideas and	Excessive errors in grammar and punctuation.

	grammar or punctuation errors, and little or no use of the passive voice		arguments	
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Rubric

Source: [www.eiu.edu/History](http://www.eiu.edu/History)