

Summer Reading for AP US History

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You will be required to purchase and read "*Founding Brothers, the Revolutionary Generation*," by Joseph Ellis. This work of non-fiction is both an entertaining and enlightening study of the intertwined lives of the founders of the American Republic. The author recounts both the collaborative and antagonistic interactions between these men, showing the private characters behind the public personas. *Founding Brothers* will provide you with a new perspective on the unpredictable forces that shape history.

You will need the following for this assignment:

- The book by Joseph Ellis, "Founding Brothers, the Revolutionary Generation"
- A spiral notebook, 70 pages is fine
- Computer with Internet access

Due date for the written assignments: September 13th 2010

I _____ acknowledge that I have received notification of the required summer reading of "*Founding Brothers, the Revolutionary Generation*." I understand the assignments related to this reading and I pledge to read the entire book and complete the given assignments that are a part of this AP US History course.

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

The Characters

You should be quite familiar with the first five men on this list; they are of course our “Founding Fathers.” However, the remaining characters may or may not be part of your historical knowledge. You will write a brief character summary for each individual listed below, starting with Abigail Smith Adams.

I have provided an example of a character summary using Aaron Burr. Write these summaries in your journal, please write legibly. 6 points for each summary.

1. John Adams
2. Thomas Jefferson
3. George Washington
4. Benjamin Franklin
5. Alexander Hamilton

Character Summary list

1. Aaron Burr
2. Abigail Smith Adams
3. John Quincy Adams
4. Samuel Adams
5. Benjamin Franklin Bache
6. Abraham Baldwin
7. James Callender
8. Elbridge Gerry
9. James Jackson
10. John Jay
11. John Laurence
12. John Page
13. Nathaniel Pendleton
14. Benjamin Rush
15. Thomas Scott
16. William Loughton Smith
17. William Van Ness

* See the following page for an example

Example:

Aaron Burr The grandson of the great theologian Jonathan Edwards, Burr served as a colonel in the Revolutionary Army before entering New York politics. Post revolution he was appointed Attorney General for New York. He goes on to defeat Alexander Hamilton's father-in-law in the race for a U.S. Senate seat, sparking the personal quarrel that will eventually end in the infamous duel. Burr has very high political aspirations. He will actually tie Thomas Jefferson in electoral votes for the U.S. Presidency in 1800 and will refuse to accept the "offered" role as the Vice-President, so the House of Representatives will decide the outcome. His nemesis, Hamilton, seems to always be a thorn in his political side and the two will eventually square off in the infamous Hamilton & Burr duel. Subsequently, Burr will be accused of plotting to create a separate nation in the southwestern area of America which further damages his reputation; he will eventually live out his life quietly in New

Short Essay Questions

Directions Compose a brief essay for each question listed below. A brief essay is "typically" one page, typed. It is to be 1.5 spacing, 12 point font size, and Times New Roman style font. Your essay must answer the question in its entirety; no simple yes or no response will be acceptable. No thesis statement is necessary. You will hand write your responses in your journal and type them as well. I will collect both the journal and your typed essays in class on the stated due date.

You may eliminate three of the questions, your choice 😊

A total of 10 short essays will be written & typed for a grade; 10 points each. Be sure to indicate the question number that you are referencing in order to get proper credit. This is an exam/major grade, be thorough.

1. Why is John Adams not on Mount Rushmore or U.S. currency like Washington and Jefferson?
2. How, with all his battlefield setbacks, has Washington retained his reputation as a great general?

3. How was the French Revolution a continuation of the American Revolution? How did it differ?
 4. Why could slavery not be dealt with in the revolutionary generation?
 5. Was Aaron Burr a good guy or a bad guy?
 6. Could Jefferson have changed the vice presidency from a “do-nothing” job if he had cooperated with Adams?
 7. Was Abigail Adams a political asset or a liability to her husband?
 8. How did Washington’s flair for making dramatic exits influence the early republic?
 9. Was Hamilton’s plan for assumption essential to the new republic?
 10. How did Adams and Jefferson set the stage for the Civil War?
 11. How is hindsight a historical asset and how is it a liability?
 12. Who is Ellis’ favorite Founding Brother? Why?
 13. Who is your favorite or least favorite Founding Brother? Why?
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