

Advanced Placement U. S. History Summer Assignment 2010

Ms. Im

In preparation for the AP exam in U.S. History, we will be conducting extensive work with primary documents. For your summer assignment, I would like for you to conduct independent web research and develop skills as aspiring historian. Choose from the topics below that you are interested in exploring in detail. Then, locate 15-20 examples of primary documents regarding your topic. Examples of primary documents are newspaper articles (from the period, not about the time period), letters, journal entries, advertisement, song lyrics, literature, etc). Please cite, and save a copy (electronic or paper) – I may ask to see them at a later date. With these documents, you will write a 5-7 page essay, with a well-defined thesis statement, that incorporates your general knowledge of the Civil War and analysis of the documents.

I will be looking for several things in this essay. First, I will be looking for an original and creative thesis, well supported by evidence. Please use quotes to support your arguments whenever appropriate. Also, practice all the elements of good writing – careless typos, grammatical errors, and general sloppiness will be reflected in your grade. Your ability to organize your thoughts on page, and produce a solid, logical chain of thought to support your thesis is key to effective written communication. Lastly, always cite. Follow the format in the KRHS Style Manual, available online. One last note: do not plagiarize. I expect the highest degree of academic integrity from all my students. Any students who plagiarize will be referred to the administration and also be subject to removal from the course.

This will be your first opportunity to impress me with your writing prowess – I eagerly await the results. If you have any questions, please contact me at cim@krhs.net. It may take me a few days to reply, so do not wait until the last minute to ask questions. You should begin this essay early; it is more difficult than it looks. The essay is due first day of class – failure to submit the summer assignment is grounds for dismissal from the course.

Civil War Topics:

- Confederate soldiers' reasons for the war
- Union soldiers' reasons for the war
- Effect of war on free African Americans
- Effect of war on enslaved African Americans
- Effect of war on the Confederate home front
- Effect of war on the Union home front
- Attitude towards race – North
- Attitude towards race – South
- Impact of Reconstruction on the South
- Meaning of freedom in post-war South
- Other (must be approved by instructor)

NOTE: I have taken off the topic of women during the Civil War; do not ask me if you can choose this topic. The answer is “no.”

Have a great summer, and see you in September!