

AP United States History – Summer Assignment – Mr. Pettine

AP United States History is meant to give you a college-level survey understanding of the history of the United States. As preparation for this study, you are required to read **A Short History of the United States** by Robert Remini (ISBN is 0060831456). Remini's narrative will give you an introduction to the themes, concepts, events, and personalities that comprise our history.

Please be aware that I do not endorse all views of the author and that you will likely disagree with some of his findings. One of our goals during the year will be understanding how historians judge the historical record and evaluate events.

Your assignment is to keep a Reaction Journal while you read *A Short History of the United States*. This should be divided into eleven headed sections (name them after the chapter title). You should write .75 - 1.5 pages about each chapter in the following manner:

Paragraph 1: Summary of major events and personalities in the chapter

Paragraph 2 : Evaluation of major themes and developments

Paragraph 3: Relation to prior themes / movements in American history

Paragraph 4: How did you personally react to this chapter? Did you agree with the author's viewpoints, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree – and why?

After finishing the reaction papers, you should label a twelfth section, "Required Knowledge." In this section, list ten individuals **and** ten events from the work that you think all students of American history must know about to be considered knowledgeable. Using your book as a resource, defend your choices. Note that this is not a "because I like them" or "because I agree with them" evaluation – it is a judgment of the importance of the individual or event to the course of American history. This section will likely be over two pages.

Rubric:

80% – Reaction to Chapters Section

20% – Required Knowledge Section

