

AP US History Summer Assignment

For the summer assignment, you should read *A Little History of the United States* by James West Davidson (Yale University Press, 2016). You should take annotated notes within the text to keep track of material. You should then construct a 5-paragraph essay using 11/12 pt font with decent side margins. Name, date and class should be in the top left corner.

Essay Title – ‘What forces have shaped US History?’

In your essay, you will establish three themes that played a defining role in United States History. It could be as simple as political, economic, or social advancements (or degeneration), but you should be thoughtful, creative, and nuanced. These themes will be the building blocks of your work. Include specific and varied examples from the text to support your ideas.

Use in-text citation (ex. Davidson 5) to indicate page number. Paraphrasing (putting in your own words) is the goal, but short quotations can be used. Please only consider the text and not outside information. You will be graded on rigor, creativity, and thoughtfulness. Readability will also be considered.

Further guidance:

Introduction – briefly provide context to the history of the United States based on reading the book and the direction of your response; themes should be clearly defined

Body paragraphs – clearly define what each paragraph is analyzing, use examples to illustrate your ideas and try to make links between themes

Conclusion – compare themes and see if you can make a judgment about their overall relative importance

Your work must be submitted 2 weeks before the start of the school (by August 21st).

The assignment will be used to assess your suitability for AP US History – failure to submit this work on time will result in your withdrawal from the course. Work should be emailed to the address below.

Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Mr Shergold – shergolds@northwoodschoo.org

You can order the book locally in Lake Placid at The Bookstore Plus (www.bookstoreplus.com and 518-523-2950)

Amazon link also below – used copies are also fine

[A Little History of the United States \(Little Histories\): Davidson, James West: 9780300223484: Books - Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9780300223484)

Davidson, J. W. (2016). *A Little History of the United States*. Yale University Press.

