

May 28, 2020

Dear AP US History Students and Parents:

AP US History will be a demanding class. We must cover (in detail) about 550 years of American History in just one year!

To get a jump start on the year, we would like for you to contemplate the following three questions.

1. What does it mean to be an American?
2. Why is it important to study American History?
3. What is the United States of America's place in the world?

Please, answer these questions in three separate essays with thoughtfulness and honesty. Please do not write what you think teachers would like to hear. As you will be learning to think and write like a historian in this class, please substantiate your ideas with documentation. These essays will be turned in on TEAMS during the first week of school.

There is one other assignment for the summer. I would like you to read *Self Reliance* by Ralph Waldo Emerson. Here is a link to the Gutenberg Project where *Self Reliance* is available free of charge. <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/16643/16643-h/16643-h.htm> As you read this essay, I would like you to contemplate the following items. Why do you think Emerson wrote this essay? How has self-reliance changed from Emerson's time to now? How many of his ideas are still relevant in today's world. To what extent are you self-reliant? Please answer these questions in your own words. This assignment will also be turned in to TEAMS during the first week of school.

If you have any questions over the summer, you can email me at Frank.ourednik@sarasotacountyschools.net. I will check my emails weekly and will respond within a week of receipt. I look forward to reading your answers and discussing these questions upon our return to school.

Enjoy your summer,

Frank W. Ourednik

