

## **APUSH Unit 1 Research Essay Assignment**

This assignment gives you the opportunity to dig deeper into the early period of American history (1491–1607). You will choose one of the four prompts below and write a 3–5 page essay that uses both primary and secondary sources to develop a historical argument. The essay must be typed with size 12 font, Times New Roman. You will be required to turn it in to Schoology before or on 8/18/25. There will be a deduction if turned in after that date. Whether this is your first AP course or you’ve taken one before, the goal is the same: Craft a thoughtful, well-supported essay that reflects college-level thinking and writing.

In your essay, you are required to use primary and secondary sources. Academic sources are materials created by experts and scholars that are credible, well-researched, and typically peer-reviewed. They include scholarly journal articles, books published by academic presses, and reputable websites. These sources provide trustworthy information and analysis appropriate for academic research. To maintain academic standards, you must also include a properly formatted “Works Cited” page at the end of your essay using MLA citation style.

Maintaining academic integrity is essential to your success in this course. Plagiarism or the misuse of AI tools will result in a zero on the assignment. This includes copying from websites without proper citation, submitting AI-generated content as your own work, or paraphrasing material from online sources without accurate attribution. You may use AI tools appropriately to brainstorm ideas, ask for help with structure, or generate outlines and timelines. However, as students, you may not use AI to write, rewrite, or edit your essay. All writing, analysis, and conclusions must be your original work. All essays whether written or typed will be electronically checked for AI usage and plagiarism.

1. Compare the political, economic, and cultural characteristics of Native American societies in the Southwest with those in the Northeast prior to European contact.
2. To what extent were economic motivations more significant than religious motivations in driving European exploration and colonization of the Americas in the 15th and 16th centuries?
3. Evaluate the impact of the Columbian Exchange on the societies of the Americas in the 15th and 16th centuries.
4. Analyze the extent to which Spanish colonization altered the lives of Native American peoples between 1492 and 1607.

# AP US History

## Video Document Assignment Log

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

We are all visual and audio learners. The goal of this assignment is to familiarize you with information regarding American History. There are many television shows that will help you to become acquainted with the time periods we are going to study. Complete this log as you watch each show. You need to write at least 5 complete, well-written sentences to answer the question. Typed answers will NOT be accepted. It should take no longer than 5 minutes after you have completed the show.

1. Title of the show/documentary: \_\_\_\_\_

Channel show was aired on: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Show: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn about American History watching this show/documentary?

[illegible]

2. Title of the show/documentary: \_\_\_\_\_

Channel show was aired on: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Show: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn about American History watching this show/documentary?

[illegible]

3. Title of the show/documentary: \_\_\_\_\_

Channel show was aired on: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Show: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn about American History watching this show/documentary?

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4. Title of the show/documentary: \_\_\_\_\_

Channel show was aired on: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Show: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn about American History watching this show/documentary?

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5. Title of the show/documentary: \_\_\_\_\_

Channel show was aired on: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Show: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn about American History watching this show/documentary?

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6. Title of the show/documentary: \_\_\_\_\_

Channel show was aired on: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Show: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn about American History watching this show/documentary?

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7. Title of the show/documentary: \_\_\_\_\_

Channel show was aired on: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Show: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn about American History watching this show/documentary?

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8. Title of the show/documentary: \_\_\_\_\_

Channel show was aired on: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Show: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn about American History watching this show/documentary?

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9. Title of the show/documentary: \_\_\_\_\_

Channel show was aired on: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Show: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn about American History watching this show/documentary?

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10. Title of the show/documentary: \_\_\_\_\_

Channel show was aired on: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Show: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn about American History watching this show/documentary?

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