

AP U.S. II

Summer Assignment

2011-2012 School Year

Welcome to Advanced Placement United States History II. I am very much looking forward to meeting and working with you when you come back from your summer break in September. I know that you are currently completing the work of AP U.S. I and you are fortunate to have Mr. Schwartz at this time. The curriculum calls for you to be studying *Reconstruction* now and then has you beginning U.S. II with *Westward Expansion* and the *Gilded Age* in September. That time period, which essentially encompasses the last 40 years of the 19th century, focuses on industrialization, the growth of cities, immigration, and politics. It also shows the growth of *Populism* in America and highlights our first steps onto the world stage as a respected power.

Since history is made each and every year, U.S. II does not have a finite end. It is essential then, that we begin our work immediately and with great focus. To that end, I have put together a summer assignment that will help you in understanding the first few topics that we will be discussing. **There are two parts to the assignment, so make sure that you do both A and B.**

If you have any questions, feel free to see me before the end of this school year. If you need to speak to me during the summer, contact the school at (973) 887-3004 and leave me a message. I will respond within a day. Good luck and I look forward to working with you next school year.

Mr. Kleinbaum

Part A- Westward Expansion in the United States.

Using the textbook, *The National Experience* as your primary source, assess the validity of the following statement:

During the years 1860-1900, The United States government was very interested in having its citizens, and citizens of other countries, inhabit the area known as "The Great American Desert." Its policies to entice people to move westward and to limit Native American interference were strong, effective and just.

Some hints to writing a strong response:

- Be sure that you address the entire statement, not just a part of it.
- Provide a powerful thesis statement.
- Use specific policies put forth by the U.S. government to support your view.
- Write strong topic sentences that make it clear what that paragraph is about.
- Don't stray from your argument.
- Your conclusion should bring all the parts of your argument together in an effective ending.
- Given that this is an "untimed" assignment, spelling, grammar, and neatness will have considerable weight in regards to grading.

Requirements:

- This paper must be typed and double spaced
- Minimum length: 3 pages
- Maximum length: 5 pages
- All sources must be identified in a "Works Cited" page.
- Use MLA format
- Please provide a cover page that includes a title and your name.

Part B- Write your own DBQ

U.S. I introduced you to Data Based Questions (DBQ) and I know that you have responded to a number of them. This is your opportunity to actually write one.

Requirements:

- A statement that students must respond to. (The statement should begin with words like, "To what extent...", or "Assess the validity of..."
- A minimum of 6 documents that gives students the opportunity to choose more than one path in writing their response.
- An outline as to how you would respond to the DBQ if you were assigned it. Make sure that you provide a thesis.
- A list of 3 or more "outside sources" that you would have used if you were writing the response.
- Due Date

Project due date: Friday, September 17th

Extra Credit due date: Friday, September 10th - (5 points)

Grading

This project will be worth 175 points.

A- 157-175

B- 139-156

C- 121-138

D- 103-137

F: Don't even think about it!!!

Possible Topics:

- Industrialization in the late 19th century
- Imperialism/Expansionism
- Political Reform in the "Gilded Age"