

2010 Honors U.S. History Assignment Instructions

Honors students need to complete the following assignment (Parts I-II). All parts of the assignment are due either before the first day of school or on the first day of school. The assignment gives directions as to how to complete it. If you have any questions please email Mr. Cegavske or view Mr. Cegavske's website at <http://www.swcta.net/teachers/cegavske> for updates on the reading answers to commonly asked questions.

Part I - 1776 by David McCullough

Directions: You are to read David McCullough's 1776. This book may be found at the public libraries or bookstores (you do not need to buy it). Answer these questions as you read the book or when you finish. The answers need to be in paragraph form. Your paper should be no longer than five pages hand written, including the title page.

Be ready to be turned in on the first day of class.

What is the author's overriding thesis?

How does s/he prove his thesis?

Does s/he explain why detractors from his/her thesis are incorrect or weak arguments?

NOTE: The thesis may not be a sentence clearly established in the opening of the book. You may have to think about this.

Discuss the author's use of evidence to prove his/her thesis.

Does the author have a bias? If so, explain.

Write two thoughtful questions you would ask the author about his/her work.
Why these questions?

Write one thoughtful question per person you would ask five major characters in the Book.
Why this question?

What other observations/insights do you have that strikes you as interesting?

I am particularly interested in the characters background in America, their education, their social standings influence their decisions during the revolutionary/federal times period? Why?

You may group people by region, class, and occupation if it works for you

PART II - PERSONAL LETTER

Directions: The answers need to be in paragraph form. Your paper should be no longer than 2-4 paragraphs typed, double-spaced (12 pt. Arial font and standard margins). Any and all writing assignments need to be emailed as an attachment. Only Word, RTF, or PDF attachments will be accepted. This assignment needs to be sent to me any time BEFORE the first day of school.

Assignments should be sent to adcegavske@interact.ccsd.net

History happens daily and we all have a personal history. I'd like to know a little about you as we embark on the year together.

Paragraph 1 - 2: Your name; your family, a brief statement of who you are. Include a sentence or two about why you are taking US History Honors and what you hope to get out of the class.

Paragraph 2 - 4: A quote that appeals to you. Then describe why you like it so much.