

SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

In order to prepare you for the upcoming course work, it is beneficial to enter the class with a prior understanding of certain parts of American History to act as points for review, comparison and contrast. By having a base knowledge of a few key events, or time periods in American History, a ground work is laid which will allow you to expand your knowledge, and retain larger portions of the new material by being able to relate them to the prior knowledge.

There are two educationally recognized ways to acquire this base knowledge. Through reading a historical work, or touring a historical location, it is possible to become familiar with the events and locations. Through the reading the work of a knowledgeable author or hearing the presentation of knowledgeable guides and park rangers the history of a specific time or location can become more relevant to a student. The student will then be responsible for making comparisons between two of these historical works or historical locations.

Assignment Option #1: Read Two Historical Works (9 Total Pages)

The paper you will write should have three pages of summary and exposition of April 1865, plus three pages explain the second text's thesis and events. The paper must demonstrate that you have actually read the book, and therefore include direct references from the text. Summarizing the work after perusing an internet summation will NOT be sufficient to score well on the paper. The final three pages should be an analysis of the contentions made by each author. Whose argument do you find to be more persuasive? Which of the two time periods you have read about do you believe to be the critical time period in American History? Again, this conclusion should demonstrate your understanding of the author's thesis as well as demonstrating your own thoughts on which author makes a stronger case in his work.

All papers must be submitted electronically. (Paper submissions are not acceptable) They may be brought on a flash drive the 1st day of school, or e-mailed to scott.hall@yourcharlotteschools.net. Any plagiarism will result in a failing grade as well as disciplinary action pursuant to Charlotte County School Board policy. There will be a reading comprehension quiz on each book the first week of school.

READ:

April 1865: The Month That Saved America

by Jay Winik (available for as low as .47 on Amazon)

Examples of other Books: (Please e-mail me by July 1st with the book you have selected. It must be a work of academic scholarship, not a historical novel or short essay) you do not have to select from this list, these are just suggested works from various crucial times in our history, that could be perceived as changing the course of the country. (Check bookoutlet.com for very low prices on many of these suggested titles)

December 1941: 31 days that Changed America by Craig Shirley

All the President's Men by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein

Dinner at Mr. Jefferson's by Charles Cerami

1912 by James Chace

15 Minutes by Douglas Keeney

American Crisis by William Fowler

A Country of Vast Designs by Robert Merry

Declaration by William Hogeland

End of Days by James Swanson

Game Change by John Heilemann

Justice for All by Jim Newton

Assignment Option #2: **Visit Historical Locations** (12 Total pages)

Visit two locations of historical significance in the history of the United States. These locations should be of national importance and be able to further a student's understanding of the history of that location.

Each visit will require documentation to demonstrate that you actually visited the location, as well as partook in an educational briefing on the significance and history of the spot. These locations need to be significant to the political and cultural history of the United States, as well as being educational. Not all national landmarks would fit this description. For example, visiting and viewing the Grand Canyon, while impressive does not further the understanding of history, so it would not be considered valid. Walt Disney World has the "Hall of Presidents", which while possessing some historical content is not a location of historical significance, so that would also not meet the criteria. Visiting the American History Smithsonian, Ford's Theater (site of the Lincoln assassination), the White House, Alcatraz, Auschwitz, or the sight of the Allied landing at Normandy are all examples of appropriate historical sites.

As part of the visit you should partake in whatever sort of informational presentation is offered. Almost all national parks or sites have hourly ranger talks. You must get documentation. A picture of you standing by a statue is not sufficient. Parks all have informational brochures and historical sites all have educational material they will distribute free of charge if you ask and tell them it is for a school project. This paperwork will be turned in with the essay.

After you have visited the two locations, you must write TWO pages on the history of the site you have visited. You then must write THREE pages on the significance of this site in United States history. Therefore you will write a total of FIVE pages per historical site.

A TWO page conclusion where you compare the two historical sites, and determine which you think played a larger role in United States History will complete the written portion of the assignment.

All papers must be submitted electronically. (Paper submissions are not acceptable) They may be brought on a flash drive the 1st day of school, or e-mailed to scott.hall@yourcharlotteschools.net. Any plagiarism will result in a failing grade as well as disciplinary action pursuant to Charlotte County School Board policy.

In addition to the electronic submission of the paper you will be required to bring the verification paperwork to class on the first day.