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### Academic Subject

*History has always piqued my interest, but I didn't realize the true extent of the power history holds over our society until I took AP U.S. History. Once I delved into studying the 1861-1865 American Civil War and the Reconstruction era, I couldn't resist digging deeper into the history of racial inequality in the United States.*

*I took deep dives into every topic, exploring the works of W.E.B. Du Bois, Sojourner Truth, and Frederick Douglass in my free time. My interest in the topic beyond the classroom material paid off, with my essays on African American History earning me the highest grades.*

*To go beyond the curriculum, I also joined my school's History Club. There, I focused on organizing discussions and debates on African American History, from the Civil Rights Movement to the history of systemic racism.*

*Thanks to exchanges with like-minded students, I could see some of the connections between historical events that previously evaded me. Facing perspectives of students of different ethnicities also reminded me that African American History remains part of Race and Ethnicity Studies, and African American experiences should be analyzed in conjunction with Latinx, Indigenous, and Asian American History.*

*By the end of the AP History class, I'd spent dozens, if not hundreds, of hours reading books on African American History, from the biography of Martin Luther King Jr. to W. E. B. Du Bois's*



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*essays on Black Reconstruction. I even got my hands on a college-level African American textbook from a second-hand store to satisfy my curiosity.*

*My venture into African American History beyond the curriculum enabled me to view the world and its current events through the lens of past events. Knowing the power of doing this extra work, I intend to continue looking beyond the assigned reading material and classroom discussions in college as well.*