

AP World History Summer Assignment

THE JOHN CARROLL SCHOOL - DEMENNATO

Dear Students –

Welcome to AP World History and The John Carroll School! I am so glad that you will be in class with me during the 2026-2027 school year. I hope you are excited too. Below are a few assignments for you to complete this summer to ensure that you are prepared for the rigor and pace of the AP World History curriculum.

Advanced Placement World History is a thematic, **college-level** course designed to familiarize you with the broad patterns of the human experience. You will concentrate on **change and continuity over time**, the unique aspects of **social, economic and political institutions**, and the **common characteristics** that tie them together.

You are now charged with the **role of a historian** and will engage in activities that encourage **critical thinking** and hone your ability to debate established historical interpretations and **express your educated views using primary source documents**. Throughout the year, you will actively **compare cultures** and look for **historical patterns** that stretch across time periods and tie all human populations together through history.

Textbook for the class –

Can be found on the e-Bookstore when released by the school.

You will **need this text as soon as school starts**, so order ASAP! **Summer Assignment**

Failure to complete summer assignments on time shows that you are a student who may be unwilling to complete work outside of the classroom. For AP courses,

outside work is necessary to success. If you choose not to complete these assignments before the first day of school, you are choosing to show us that you are unwilling to put forth the needed effort to succeed in AP World History. There are **TWO** summer assignments. Both assignments will be turned in to me COMPLETED on the last day of the first week of classes.

Task One - Reading

AP World History is a rigorous course of study that attempts to build a comprehensive understanding of historical processes through not only intensive reading and writing but through the development of complex analytical skills. We will be using a college-level text, so naturally, a strong reading and vocabulary background will be beneficial. You can anticipate reading assignments every week that will often take more than an hour to complete and the ability to take quality notes will be important to your success. While ultimately a rewarding experience, you should be prepared to spend a considerable amount of time and effort developing the skills necessary to be successful in this course. The first skill we will be developing is our ability to read and take quality notes.

For your summer assignment, you will practice taking “**Cornell Notes**,” while reading the **Prologue** of our course. Please follow the attached outline to complete this assignment. Notes should be **handwritten**.

Cornell notes is just one popular form of note-taking used by college students regularly. **Cornell notes** allow you to identify **keywords** and concepts quickly (which is a skill you need for this class) and they are generally easier to review because of the ‘**cue column**’ (which means less time searching for information).

Below is a copy of the template for Cornell notes and a digital version of the Prologue for our textbook.

[AMSCO Prologue Link Separate from this document](#) - read and take notes over this

chapter of our textbook. Or see PDF below.

[Cornell Notes Outline \(below – please print your copies as needed\)](#) – prompts will guide you through using this effectively.

Task Two – Writing

More than any other class you have taken up until this point, AP World History is going to prepare you to be a strong writer. Writing is a HUGE component to this class. As historians, we read and write about history. Our job is to analyze evidence and then prepare arguments in written form. This assignment will serve as a baseline to your writing capabilities.

Choose any topic in history to write an essay addressing the following prompt –

“Explain the significance of your selected historical topic on mankind.”

Assignment details:

- Must be typed in either Arial or Times New Roman Font
- 12pt font size
- .5 inch margins
- Single spaced
- 1 or 1.15 line spacing
- 4-5 paragraphs

THIS SUMMER ASSIGNMENT IS DUE on the last day of the first week of classes.

Cornell NOTES



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