**ADVANCED PLACEMENT**

**United States History**

**How to Write a Reading Analysis**

**What is a Reading Analysis?**

A reading analysis is much more than a summary of a text. This writing assignment asks you to combine your own arguments with an in-depth understanding of the reading(s) you are assigned. By repeating what you find in the text you are merely rewording the ideas of another writer. By presenting your arguments without text-based evidence you are only providing baseless points. A reading analysis blends both items and develops your position with the support of the experts whose texts we read.

**How do you write a Reading Analysis?**

A reading analysis should be written in the format of a 5 paragraph essay with an introduction, 3 areas of analysis, and a conclusion. Each portion of the Reading Analysis is explained below:

Introduction

* Begin with a general statement that encapsulates the topic
* Provide a summary of the relevant background information needed in order to understand the history of the topic (maximum of 5-6 sentences)
* End with a thesis statement that responds to the prompt and lists the 3 areas of analysis you will address in your paper

Areas of Analysis

An area of analysis explains one reason why your response to the prompt is correct. An area of analysis can explain the consequences, demonstrate the relevance, refute a counterargument, or do anything that allows you to prove the point you are making in your thesis. An area of analysis is written just like a TEAS paragraph except the emphasis is on your analysis first and then evidence to support it. Think of it like a TAES paragraph.

* **T** – Write a topic sentence that states your first area of analysis
* **A** – Explain your argument in depth
* **E** – Use meaningful quotations from the text that support your analysis and explain the relevance of this evidence to the argument you are making
* **S** – Summarize how your argument made in this area of analysis proves the point you made in your thesis

Conclusion

* Restate your thesis and the areas of analysis you used to justify your main point
* Analyze in depth the implications of your response to the prompt. If your response were to hold true or to be confirmed how would this impact American history, society, or culture? Use your conclusion to prove how your response is relevant!

**How to cite evidence properly**

A reading analysis will always ask you to use pre-assigned readings and as a result you do not need to provide a bibliography for this type of assignment. Instead you must use in-text citation by writing the author and page number in parentheses. For example (Vandsburger, 62).

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**Summer Assignments**

Summer Assignment #1: Reading the Text

You must pick up a copy of “Love and Hate in Jamestown” before you leave for the summer. As you read the book you need to go through the process of **annotating**:

**Annotating**

* Highlight key pieces of information, quotes that you believe are relevant, or items that connect to what you learned in the prep-course
* Use the space in the margins of the book to write comments, questions, thoughts, ideas, or connections based on what you read
* Add post-it notes with your own “additions” to the book. These “additions” can include relevant information you think should be added, thoughts about the implications of events and ideas described in the book, or points you would make in response to major themes presented in the book
* Vocabulary sheets that you staple into your book defining key content terms or major words that you didn’t know before the book and looked up while reading

Your annotated book will be submitted at the start of the 2012 – 2013 school year for a reading notes grade (similar to what you did for the prep-course). This process will add significant time to your reading so prepare for this to take much longer than a casual read.

Summer Assignment #2: Summer Reading Analysis

Your first assignment will be posted on July 11 to mrvandsburger.weebly.com and will be removed on July 18. Though the reading analysis prompt will not be uploaded until July 11, all directions can be read at any point up until then. In order to sufficiently answer the prompt you should have read up to Chapter 5. Remember that for this reading analysis you will have a time limit of 1 hour and 35 minutes so make sure you set aside a time and space to work without distraction.

Summer Assignment #3: Online Group Discussion

Beginning August 8 a series of discussion prompts will be posted on the AP US History Blog portion of the website mrvandsburger.weebly.com. These prompts will be based on the book up to Chapter 10. The expectation is that you post your own detailed reaction to any 2 of the prompts and you reply to any 3 of the posts provided by your peers. Read the blog instructions if you are unsure as to how to respond.

Summer Assignment #4: Outside Activity Reflection

On August 8 a list of existing and upcoming exhibits at a variety of museums or events around New York will be posted to the website mrvandsburger.weebly.com. For this assignment you will need to attend this exhibit / event and write a reflection that connects your findings to the final section of the text. You may complete this assignment at any point between August 8 and the first day of school. More details on the format of this written reflection will be posted on the website as well. For the outside activity reflection you will need to finish the text.