

Gentlemen,

Welcome to AP United States History (APUSH)! For most, if not all, of you, this will be your first Advanced Placement course. Going directly from an online history course to an AP class will not be easy; however, if you work hard and “trust the process”, you will succeed. As this is a challenging course with rapid pacing, I want you to get a head start on the material this summer.

Your assignment: Read Ch.1 (“Indigenous America”) of the online textbook *The American Yawp*. It is linked here: <https://www.americanyawp.com/index.html> . Then, you will begin your first preparation for answering free-response questions on the AP Exam. I have written three prompts for you to answer. You are to choose **two** and answer them in essay form. All of the information you need to respond to these prompts is in Ch. 1 of the online textbook; however, you do not need to make citations. Each answer should be approximately 500-600 words in length (roughly two pages). These essays will be due as a **hard copy (printed)** on the day of our first class period.

The prompts are as follows:

- What were some of the major features of American Indian civilizations before Europeans arrived? What were some of the major changes to those civilizations created by European colonization?
- What factors allowed Europeans to be able to explore and conquer the North American continent? What were their motivations for doing so?
- How was the Aztec civilization arguably the technological, social, military, and civic equal to European civilizations? If that was so, how did it fall so easily?

Feel free to email me over the summer if you have any questions. I will try to respond as quickly as I can. Completing this assignment will allow us to hit the ground running in the fall!

Enjoy your summers!

- Mr. Murphy -