Words of wisdom from the 2017-18 class to next year’s AP kiddies…

1. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. This class is full of discussion every day and I want to make sure you don’t do what I did. I never spoke in class, and when I did it was very brief. That may not seem like a big deal, but it was to me. The worst feeling is having an answer to a question and not saying it. Trust me, that happened to me all the time. You should try to always be part of the discussion and share your opinion. Also, there may be moments where you feel like you don’t belong. But you do, I promise. Just work hard and don’t stress yourself out too much. If you ever feel stressed, Mr. Schiavo will gladly talk to you. Believe me, I wish I opened up to him more. The year ahead will be filed with opportunities and in the end, you’ll realize just how much this class offers. Work hard, speak up, and try your best.
2. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom.  Be prepared to buckle down and hold on for a wild ride in this class. In this class, you will be treated like AP students, not like regular high school students.  You will receive probably the most work you have seen in your career as a student, but don’t be alarmed. All of the work done throughout the school year just gives you more and more knowledge for the AP Test in the spring.  Throughout this class you may become frustrated or angry, but it will teach you some valuable life lessons. At the end of the year, you will look back and see how much you have transformed not only as a student, but as a person too.  After completing this class you will realize that you can do anything if you put your mind and hard work towards it. Also Mr. Schiavo is a pretty cool dude too. Well I hope this letter will give you some words of encouragement for you to succeed in this class and I wish you the best of luck!
3. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. When you are in this class, make sure you relax. Although it can be stressful at times, just know what you have to do, and get it done. Most of the time it is better to complete something relaxed than with extra stress. This keeps you more focused and can make your grade better. Secondly, make sure you are always on top of things. Sometimes, it can be a lot, and you won't be as motivated. However, if you keep both working hard and working ahead, it will pay off. Lastly, despite all the work that you will deal with, have fun! It may not be fun a lot of the time, but just enjoy it because one day, you will miss it!
4. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. The first few months of APUSH are going to be very stressful between spirits, thesis things, multiple choice quizzes, your first DBQ, spending hours of time on your AP work and on top of all of that trying to figure out how to balance your time between school, sports, and still maintaining a social life. Believe me, it will get easier to balance your time, as long as you don’t procrastinate. Don’t drop the class because you don’t do the work and don’t do well, doing the work will reward you and you’ll feel a lot more thankful for the work you “had” to do when you take the test in May. The work load won’t get any lighter, especially the closer you get to May. Be prepared to give up your lunches, Monday nights, and almost every night leading up to the test. Looking back at all of your notes once or twice a week definitely helps you in May, but even while writing DBQs or thesis things being able to relate things you are learning now and what you were taught earlier in the year. Looking back at all of your work will probably make you laugh, because it truly shows how much you have grown as a student. Your first thesis thing will probably be around 4 pages, but by the last you’ll most likely range between 13 and 14 pages (if you do the research properly). Everything assigned in this class is preparing you to get that perfect 5 on the test in May, so read the spirits, take good notes, do the research, participate, and listen to what Mr. Schiavo has to say. APUSH has been one of my favorite classes at Mainland so far, so do not drop it! All of your hard work will be worth it after the test and you can finally relax. Good luck!
5. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. I’m sure you’ve heard horror stories about APUSH but I promise you, it’s not as bad as you think it will be. The first couple weeks are not the best but they will help you so much. Yes, this is a difficult course and you will have to work hard but it pays off in the end and as they say, if it were easy, everyone would do it. Since not a whole lot of people take this class, you really grow closer to your peers and develop a lot of great friendships. With that being said, communication is key. By this I mean talk to your classmates, talk to Mr. Schiavo if you have questions (he’s really nice, don’t be afraid like I was), and talk to any “APUSH Alumni” if you need to (hey, I’m always here if you have questions). Most importantly, do your work, try your best and have fun!!!! There will be times where you want to drop or you don’t want to do your work but like I said before, it’s so worth it. Before the AP test I was so nervous but once I sat down to take it and I was looking at my test I realized that I knew this stuff. A DBQ on imperialism? We did a debate on that! A short answer question on religion in the New England colonies? Hello!! Puritan Thesis Thingy!!! Overall, best of luck to you on your adventure throughout AP United States History. Don’t give up and believe in yourself! You’re capable of more than you think. Truth be told, I wanted to drop in the beginning of the year and I almost did (sorry Schiavo) but I didn’t and it ended up being one of my favorite classes. Again, if you any questions don’t hesitate to ask me, my locker is in B-hall and if you don’t know where to find me, ask Mr. Schiavo, he probably does. You got this! Good luck and have a great year!
6. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. You will go through times thinking “I can’t do this”. I’ve thought that many times while I was in this class, but I pushed myself to do what I needed to do. The work will get overwhelming, you’ll lose sleep, you might cry a couple times, but in the end APUSH is worth it. For me, the way I thought and they way I perceived things changed in this class. Understanding new perspectives allows you to see people’s different ways of thinking and not stay close-minded. You will truly be astonished with how Mr. Schiavo knows his information and how dedicated he is with teaching his knowledge and wisdom unto his students. You will definitely appreciate all he does to make sure you guys get the best understanding of history, even if you get tired of spirits, games, thesis things, and debates. You will not want to push APUSH work to the side or procrastinate. You are going to want all the time you need in order to do things right and on time. With this class, dedicate your time to do your best, study, and most importantly, take it easy. With this, your experience in APUSH will be great!
7. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Do not listen to what people say about the class and drop it because it sounds like it’s “too much work” or “too difficult”. You initially signed up for this class for a reason! Make up your own mind about the class by experiencing it yourself. You won’t regret taking this class. I was very nervous for the class but I am so happy I did not drop to honors. My junior year, I am planning to take three AP classes and Mr Schiavo has definitely prepared me for them. This class is not just about thinking critically and differently about history than what the facts state, but it teaches you life skills such as time management, studying, working with your classmates, organization, deciphering between valid and biased information and verbally arguing your point with evidence. This class was not like any class I have ever taken before, in a good way. Mr Schiavo pushed me to think differently and to make up my own mind based on the information we were given. APUSH goes way farther than informing you about battles and presidents. This class attacks every little detail that makes up our country’s history and allows you to make connections to so many things that occur, which I had never even thought of before. Although there is a lot of work, I am sure you are already expecting it since it is an AP class, but is not impossible by any means. I was able to play soccer, work, perform well in my other classes and manage to always get my work done. As I said earlier, you really learn how to manage your time! Mr Schiavo is one of the best teachers I have ever had. He values your effort and the time you put into his assignments. If you do all of your work completely and study for tests you are going to do well! Like any other thing that takes up your time in life, this class had its ups and downs but I would not have wanted my sophomore year to be any different than it was in APUSH. I had a ton of weekends dedicated to APUSH work, but understand that Mr Schiavo spends just as much time teaching you and preparing you for the exam as you spend on the busy work. My only advice to you is do your work and put as much effort into this class as you can- it will only benefit you! Good luck, you can do it!

To all the apush newbies,

As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom and a few helpful tips to make sure you survive the year...

1. **Don’t Panic**. You can do it. Even if you don’t necessarily pin yourself as being good at history or even liking history (like me), don’t be like me and have a panic attack the week before school starts over apush, it’s a lot better than you think.
2. **Pay Attention**. Please don’t be like me and spend many class periods staring at the various Wilco posters on the wall, no matter how tempting it may be. Trust me, it will pay off because if you do get distracted you might miss something very important, or many somethings very important, trying to play catch up is not that fun, and very confusing.
3. **Don’t Be Intimidated.** Participation is very important in this class, so make sure that you speak up. Even if you don’t know the right answer 100%, you should say it, because (a) you have a large chance of being right, and (b) Schiavo doesn’t bite, so if you get it wrong its not that big of a deal. Participation is 10% of your grade every marking period so it’s important. I also found that trying to talk more than once in every class helped me to concentrate more on what we were learning and helped me remember more from the class.
4. **It’s Okay to Go All Out.** On any assignment it is possible to get over a 100 if you go the extra mile and do exceptional work. Put in as many details as humanly possible. Write another paragraph. Add more reasoning than is necessary on your DBQ. Do SOMETHING to make your assignment and your effort stand out. So, if you are like me and you care way more than you probably should about your grade, make every effort to do amazing on every assignment. It’s definitely worth it, especially if you are not the best test taker, since it can boost your grade tremendously.
5. **Do the Spirits.** They may seem like busy work a lot of the time, but please don’t get caught unawares because you never know when you might be asked to turn one in.
6. **Games.** No, not the games that everyone considers the most fun, but it’s fun for your grade. It is a project that is worth 2 test grades and is meant for you to do something a little different with history whilst raising your grade for that marking period. Don’t panic, it’s not hard, just a little time consuming sometimes. Just do what the instructions are asking, and maybe go a little above and beyond if you are looking for a 100 or even above that.
7. **Teamwork!** If you are given the opportunity to do so, work together with your friends on assignments to help share the workload and make it more fun. Choose hard working people you get along well with and you will do great together. The Reconstruction Game, sure it was long, but time flies when you have had about 4 cups of tea each over a facetime and are doing Disney song karaoke as you work. And then the next day have a get together to finish it and play Mario Kart 8 afterwards. That is 100 times better than working alone.
8. **Start Early or Prepare for Long Nights.** If you are like me (aka the biggest procrastinator you know) and don’t start your work before the night before it is due (highly unrecommended strategy), then I’m just telling you now if you want a good grade you are going to have to buckle down and prepare for the long haul. Come prepared with lots of caffeine and sugar, sit down, and work work work. If you want to avoid this scenario because you need at least 15 hours of sleep daily to function (like me), then just take my work for it and start your assignments a couple days early at least. This is also my recommendation for people who are easily distracted from their work, or, have the deadly combination of both like I do.
9. **Don’t Believe Everything You Hear.** You will hear tons of horror stories from EVERYONE. Students, parents, teachers, your neighbors, the grocery store worker… No, I’m just kidding. But in reality, you may hear things that will deter you from sticking with this class, but not everything you hear is true. Also, while, these things may be true for some people, that doesn’t necessarily mean that it is true for you. I am telling you the truth as a student who heard these stories. Yes, it is very time consuming if you want a good grade. No, the work itself is not hard, but, as I said before, does take time. Yes, if you are not a natural test taker the tests may be hard, but if you spend some time studying your notes you will be fine. Yes, you do have to study everything from the section before an ID Test, the IDs will not be given to you beforehand. Finally, Schiavo is not at all scary. He is a great teacher and will not bite your head off if you are confused or get an answer wrong, so don’t be afraid of him.
10. **It is Possible to Do it All.** Take it from the busiest person around. With all honors courses, several after school bands and instrumental lessons, swimming for both high school and club team, volunteering in and out of school, and a lazy personality, time for apush just didn’t seem possible to me. *It is possible!* I swear.I survived, and even had some free time to myself most days, so take it from me, it IS possible to do it all.

So relax! With my 10 helpful tidbits absolutely nothing could go wrong. Just kidding, that is up to you, but honestly you will be fine. Just do the work and do it well, and if you are in need of help come find me or another previous apush student, or better yet talk to Schiavo. If you are shy or nervous around him it is a great way to break the ice before starting the year in his class. And please please please don’t drop the class, it will be tough initially but once you have the system figured out it only gets easier. Good luck everyone!!

From a previous apush newbie,

1. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. There will be times where you can’t go out with your friends because you’ll have a thesis thing to do or Spirits. Make that sacrifice. Believe me, if you don’t, you’ll really regret it later. You’ll also feel loss in class which is the absolute worst feeling. If you have a super busy schedule or do after school activities, make a small group of people you trust so you guys can help each other out. But make sure that if you ask for favors you’ll return them later on. I know a lot of you are probably on this site reading all these words of wisdom because either it’s the day before school and you’re freaking yourself out, or you feel traumatized from your first day and you are thinking “why did David Cohen have to write such a big book” and freaking yourself out, or you were just assigned your first thesis thing and realized that if you do it all in one night it will take 6-7 hours you don’t know how you can do this for the rest of the year (this happened to me) and you are freaking yourself out. STOP! Don’t get in your own head. You’ll build negative habits and never make it through the year. Trust me you want to make it through the year. It’s the best feeling walking out of the test, running to Mr. Schiavo’s room, and saying how you killed it. Throughout the year your friends will think your annoying because you’re always be talking about APUSH, but be those annoying friends because when you get back a thesis thing and see that you got a ten or you get back an ID test and see that you finally got that 91 up to a 94, you’ll be feeling really good. Make class lighthearted too. Mr. Schiavo is not out to ruin your life, he wants to see you succeed and he gives you all the tools necessary to do so. Take advantage of it. Be happy that you took this class. Yes, there are going to be some tears. Yes, there are going to be some long nights. Yes, there are going to be classes where you are continuously asking the kid next to you “what did he just say?” or “how do you spell that?”. Overall, take this class and be happy that you did. The year goes by fast and you learn so much (not just about history). By the end of the year you won’t be saying that you miss the class, but you will be grateful for the experience and will use everything you learned in other classes and life. So my final piece of advice is to persevere. It’ll be hard, but if you do, you won’t regret it! ~ A Grateful Former Student
2. As you sit here on your first day of AP U.S. History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom:

--Do not procrastinate. With the amount of work you will get from this class, procrastination is your worst enemy.  Finding the time to get the work done was the hardest part, so don’t do a whole thesis thing or game the night it’s due. If you do, you will get no sleep!!

--Don’t stress! This class is not as hard as it may seem. Just take good notes and get your work done and you will be just fine! The first few months are the hardest. When the year is over though, it feels good to say that you survived without dropping it, so stick with it even when it gets hard!

--Raise your hand and participate as much as you can. It showcases your effort in the class, even if you’re wrong about an answer. In the debates, make sure to talk a lot - it can really boost your grade!

--If you’re confused about a certain topic, ask Mr. Schiavo for some help or watch Crash Courses on YouTube - they help a lot.

--Before tests, making a google doc with some friends and creating some IDs really helps with studying. Each person thinks of different possible IDs, and it takes some stress away because you have friends helping you!

-Overall, the class drastically improves your reading writing skills. The test days teach you to spit out an essay in 30 minutes or less, and the spirits help you analyze writing and identify concepts.

1. Howdy!

As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom.

Don’t drop this class. Within the first day of class, not even, during the first day in the summer when you get the work, you are going to want to give up. Don’t. It takes some time and, yeah, it’s difficult, but it’s difficult, not impossible.

Don’t stress too much, give yourself more credit. You know more than you think you do. And in all honesty, one bad test isn’t going to ruin everything. And that’s another thing, tests, don’t worry about time. Schiavo will emphasize this, but hear it from a student, you will be able to pop out an essay in 20 minutes, tops, by the end of the year. Don’t even think twice about it.

Appreciate what Schiavo is doing. He really is a wonderful teacher and he is trying his absolute best to get you ready for the big test. Try to get to know him outside of the APUSH Class (Go Girls Swim!! Come manage or swim, do it!) You’ll realize he’s more than a history teacher and see him way differently. (He’s actually really funny and heartfelt, he treats everyone like a son or daughter)

Lastly, I will say it again (and I can’t stress this enough (; ), ***don’t stress***. You will think it’s the end of the world, have multiple breakdowns, hate life, miss out on some fun things, be tired, and even get some worry lines, but in the end it is worth it. Everyone is in the same boat so don’t feel alone in this, make a groupchat and you’ll be fine. Even if it’s just for the experience, you’re going to look back at the end of the year and think “Things I Did: That.”

I wish you the best of luck this year, and I hope you’re a coffee drinker because if you’re not now, you will be…

-You 1 Year From Now

PS - actually look at that AP Test Prep book, it’s pretty cool and it’ll probably help you a lot (even if just on the ID Tests). The way they organize terms is neat.

Here’s the link too just in case : <https://docs.google.com/document/d/10Vxp76-AAl-R_E1xV41XeGKVkGMKa6ZP7xlZ0QXyLw8>

1. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. When I enrolled in this class, I remembered telling myself that I would not let this class kick my butt. I constantly heard others before me saying how this class was going to be very time consuming, which ended up being very true. I’m not gonna lie, there were many nights where I would get less than six hours of sleep because of the time I spent on Thesis Thingies and Games, but I also took AP Physics and all honors classes so I quickly had to find a way to balance it all out. However, throughout all of this, I still stuck to my word, that I would never let APUSH kick my butt. The reason I am typing this letter is because I want future students to know that there is a way to balance this class and everything else. I would recommend completing all or at least most of the work that Schiavo will ask you to do. Obviously, games, Thesis Thingies, and debates should always be completed, but there are many assignments throughout the year that aren’t collected, but actually do help out in the long run. For example, Spirits, which are primary sources from the time periods that the course covers, are very helpful. It helped me in the long run when I would take the time to read and answer the questions that came with them because it allowed me to actually participate in class. It’s really awkward when no one in the class answers a question Schiavo asks. Also, during tests and the AP exam, I was better able to identify the authors and their style of writing because it was indicated in the Spirits. I also would like to let you know that it’s not the end of the world if you miss a few spirits. They should not be your top priority. Now for games and thesis thingies, work hard on those. This may seem odd to say, but they can be a gift. They count for a large part of your grade and can easily boost it. This is especially helpful if you didn’t do as well as you wanted to on a DBQ or an ID test because unlike them, you take as much time as you want on these projects. Because there is a lot of work and research done at home, time management is key. I probably shouldn’t be speaking in saying that I’m good at time management, because there were many nights where I got little sleep. You will regret procrastinating in this class. The weird thing though, is that I don’t regret it. I was able to hang out with my friends and play my sports throughout the day, while I completed my work at night. There were many times where people I knew taking the class would spend their entire weekends just to complete projects, but I only did that a couple times. Overall what I’m trying to say is that there is a way to have a social life while also getting your work done, you just probably aren’t going to get twelve hours of sleep every night. Everyone is different though, so although this worked for me, there is no guarantee it will work for you. I wish you the best of luck in this class and I know that you will do better than you expect.
2. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. For starters, here’s the main thing: don’t freak out. I’m sure you’ve heard plenty about this class…how it’s “too hard” or “too much work”... but honestly, if you don’t procrastinate and if you are sure to put in your best effort in everything you do, you’ll be perfectly fine. With that being said, the biggest advice I can give you is, do not procrastinate. If you end up waiting until the last minute to complete your Thesis Thing, Short Answers, or Game (which are so much fun you’ll be unable to contain your excitement leading up to your first one), that’s when this class becomes a hassle. You’ll find yourself up until 1 AM struggling to keep your eyes open in order to write your conclusion or finish your last paragraph. Frankly, the same people who say this class is awful are the same people who, well, procrastinate. If you manage your time well and are sure to grasp everything Mr. Schiavo says in class, you’ll find out that the infamous AP US History course is not as infamous as it sounds. Now, I am most certainly not trying to sugar coat anything. If you want to be successful in this class, like anything else, you need to put in the work. This is most likely going to be your first AP course, and be prepared to be bombarded and overwhelmed with work for the first few weeks or even months. However, know that you’ll begin to get more comfortable with the way things are run, and be ready to learn the most amount of information than you ever have before during this course. The goal of this class is to prepare you for the AP exam in May, and Mr. Schiavo puts you in the best position possible to receive a great exam score. So, trust the process (go sixers!), because everything you do in this class all leads up to a bigger picture. Take everything seriously, whether it be a multiple choice test that is not being graded or a couple of take-home IDs, even the littlest things can make the biggest impact on your AP experience. Overall, just remember--the goal of this class is for you to learn something, not see how much work you can do in the shortest time frame as possible. So, relax, you got this, take it from a girl who basically lives and breathes basketball and school work, you’ll be alright. Have fun!!
3. As you sit here on your first day AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Don’t let other kids scare you off from this course. For most people, this is their first AP course, which sounds very daunting and scary, but its not. After the first two weeks, it will be just like going to any other classes. While the last year’s sophomores may tell you about all the work they did, it really does not seem that bad in the long run. After this course, I will guarantee that you will love the challenges of AP classes and how excited you get when you overcome them. My only regret sophomore year is only taking 1 AP course. Dig up as much information as you possibly can for your games and thesis things. Not only will this help your grade, it will also help you and your classmates in the long run. It will also help move the class discussion along. Make sure you pay attention and participate. Paying attention will help you in the class and on the AP test. While talking to your friend might seem like fun, it ultimately will distract you and the people around you. Make sure to study a few nights prior to any test. While it is possible to study one night before a test, you won’t do as well. If you review over 3-4 nights you will score better on that test and you will understand more for the AP test. While studying make sure to go over your notebook, but also use what’s available to you on the internet. Crash courses on youtube helped a lot and [apstudynotes.org](http://apstudynotes.org/) was also very helpful. While crash courses are good, try and stay clear of John Green’s crash courses. His crash courses don’t have everything you need and are better for an honors class where you don’t have to give all the little details. I recommend Jocz, he is an apush teacher so he knows what he is doing, but also incorporates fun powerpoints to keep you engaged. Don’t be afraid of Mr.Schiavo. He is there to help you, not hurt you. He wants you to succeed. Lastly, don’t stress. It seems so easy just to stress out, and as someone who is naturally stressed out I completely understand. However, it is very possible to get sick from stress (trust me, I learned the hard way), which won’t help you because you’ll stress out even more about missing class due to sickness. As long as you work hard, you can do it. Good luck and have fun this year, don’t take any moment for granted because it will all be over so fast. (A)push yourself to success! :)
4. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom.

1. If you have a chance to get ahead do it

2. Do all your work, it is the only way to understand what you are going to learn

3. If you are shaky on your history facts look at timelines of presidencies or just review some stuff from your history books from freshman year

4. Stay focused in class

5. Sit as close as you can to Mr. Schiavo or next to people that write everything quickly

6. He will teach you more than just history so pay attention.

7. There are some really important quotes that will inspire you, keep your eyes peeled in class.

8. It’s hard work, but keep going you will get through it… because hey, everyone before you has gotten through it too!

9. It’s all a game (inside joke that you will understand very soon)

1. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. First off, relax. You may have heard this course demands a lot of work to be done at home, but if you are able to manage your time well, it will seem like any other history course you have previously taken. One thing that is most valuable to succeeding in this class is time management. You are assigned work days in advance of the due date of an assignment. Although there may be a lot of work to be done in one assignment if you manage your time well and get a little bit done each day you will see how easy it is to get the work done on time. You receive more than enough time to easily complete assigned work in this class which you can learn to take full advantage of or take it for granted and cram the night before. Next, if you put the work in you will find yourself being rewarded through grades. In my opinion your grade is greatly affected by how much work, time, and effort you spend on this class. Good luck with your year in APUSH.
2. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom: It’s really not as bad as it looks. I remember coming home and telling my Mom that I was ready to drop out of school because I honestly thought I couldn’t do it - spoiler alert, I could (and dropping out is kind of a bad call of judgement.) Of course there are going to be nights where you think that you can not possibly do anymore work/ studying/ thesis thingy-ing, however you are going to pull through, and you are going to learn from it. TAKE NOTES. And make sure they are organized (!!!) I barely paid attention to taking notes the first half of the year, and it really messed me up because I wasn’t sure what to study. Making headings or using different colored pens (which are like seventy five cents, come on) makes a huge difference. Making a class group chat works well too, especially when it comes time to study for ID tests- group docs and flashcards were the only way I did well. Although don’t attempt to put all of your trust in your classmates- because the person reading this is obviously the smartest one in the class and knows that this is not a good idea already.  Don’t tune anything else out either, no matter how much you want to stare at those Wilco posters- and, chances are, the friends in your class are, so if you don’t pay attention, your only hurting yourself, especially when it comes time to review the guidelines for a game or an ID test. It will save you a lot of frantic phone calls at eleven on a Sunday if you listen on a Friday. Do your spirits- they seem long and unnecessary, and while I can’t promise that everything you write down will be on the AP test, I can’t promise it won’t either- and nothing is scarier than hearing that you’ll do fine on the ID test if you did all of the Spirits when you’ve only done two of the three. It’s like gambling- and not the fun, with your friends kind at the arcade, but the scary, deal-with-the-devil kind. Go into the debates with as much information as possible- especially books (and maybe a sick pair of sunglasses but that’s just a suggestion). Not only will you be super prepared and lose a lot less sleep (and it’s fun to brag to your friends about how much of a hard worker you are) but there is also nothing cooler than slamming down a stack of books on your desk before flipping through them like a lawyer on the top of their game. Finally, if I haven’t made it obvious enough- go into it with a sense of humor. In all honesty, focus on your studies, of course, but don’t be afraid to slip a joke into a game or write down funny notes if they’ll help you remember better. One of my favorites is using funny titles for Spirits and Games in my Google Docs (just remember to change the names before submitting on [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com/) or won’t seem as funny.) [Editors note: You can leave the silly names when you put them your docs on Turnitin – I like.] Take the class- but not yourself- seriously, and you’ll make it through the year- I promise.
3. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these word of wisdom. First I'd like to start by saying that no matter what other people may say about this class, it is not as hard or as bad as people may think. The only thing that gets to many people is the workload, but if you do the work and try and study as much as you can, the rest will come to you. Which brings me to my next point, no matter how much work, in this class or in any other class, you may have at once, in the long run, the more work you do, the better you will remember things for the test in May. And although I'm stressing to you how doing your work should and will help you, please remember that it is not the most important thing in the world. I know and understand how mentally exhausting doing homework can be sometimes, especially after a long day. And even more so when and if you do a sport. So with that in mind, make sure to take breaks every now and then and just check in with yourself and lower your stress levels. To keep yourself from getting to those high stress levels, definitely don't wait until the very last minute to do things. If I could go back and change one thing, it would be to not procrastinate and try and spread my workload out. Although you will probably come to doubting yourself and getting back to those high stress levels when the when the AP test rolls around in May, Mr.Schiavo will have you more prepared than you probably realize it. So take these words with you for the rest of the year, and remember to just relax, because before you know it the year will be over.
4. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom... First, I would like to commend you for taking on the challenge that is AP US History. I can honestly say this class has been one of the most, if not the most, worthwhile and educational class, I've ever taken, and by far the most time consuming. While you are in the midst of the year, it may not always feel so great, but looking back on the year I feel proud of myself and truly happy that I decided to stick with the class. Yes, the workload was hefty at times, and on many occasions I stayed up well into the night to get done an assignment of some sort, but this may also be because of my poor time management skills, but I can assure you if you decide to actually do the work, and do it right, then you will have a new appreciation for history and an understanding of America and our current situations as we delve into past events in history. Basically, all I wanted to say is, if you work hard, you will most likely do well (the grading isn't as tough as one might think), and make sure to time manage well. Good Luck!
5. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Coming into sophomore year, it’s nerve-racking not knowing if you will be able to handle your first AP class. However, I assure you, you can do it, but just know it will be full of late nights and long study sessions. The workload is really intimidating, but it's manageable, even with sports and extracurriculars. A few tips for surviving APUSH this year: 1) Do NOT procrastinate, as hard as it is to focus, it is not worth staying up past midnight to finish an assignment. 2) Work with friends to study for ID tests because it's a lot easier to study for an entire chapter’s worth of information when you have others helping you brainstorm topics. 3) Offer your opinion in class, it might be scary at first, but when everyone gets involved in the conversation, you actually retain a lot of the information Mr. Schiavo throws at you. At the end of the day, the class is a lot of work, but it is truly worth it to prepare yourself for future AP and college courses. After this year, I can write a 5 paragraph essay in about 10-15 minutes, it might seem impossible now but you get used to it. Most importantly, try not to stress too much about the class and have fun while learning what you can. I enjoyed the class, especially the debates. Mr. Schiavo did a great job in preparing me for the AP Test, so please do not be afraid to “dive in” to APUSH this year, it will be worth your while!
6. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom- Despite all the rumors or experiences you might have heard from past students, or current students right now, “APUSH” is actually a fairly easy class. Although I will not deny that it is a tedious class, most of the work {projects, Thesis Thingys, research} can be done within one weekend. Sometimes, it means sacrificing going out on a Saturday night in order to get turn Thesis Thingy on “Turnitin” before 11:59 pm. However, if you choose to push things until the last minute, expect lots of stress and sleepless nights. It all depends on whether your brain can make connections and link cause and effect, not just plain memorization. This history class if nothing like previous history classes, with less focus on topics like battles, but more emphasis on politics and what caused or led up to those battles. If there is one thing to remember, it is that this class has very few restrictions. Most projects have few limitations, and the amount or depth researched is all up to you, as is the organization. This class thrives on your research and work, so if students do not participate in class, the amount learned will be basic. The more that students participate, the more topics will be covered, and the more that you will learn. Essentially, it means that you have to be prepared to talk a lot in class, or at least more than once each day. As far as work done outside of school, some days you will have nothing to do, and other days, you might be hammered with an essay paper and test next class. On the topic of tests, if there was one thing to study for, it would be the infamous ID Test, which can consist of any topic from that time period, as well as an essay all required to be done in one class period. The best way to study for this would be to work together with other fellow AP students, and create a study guide together, as studying for one by yourself is suicide. Looking at the “Spirit Books”, your best friend of a primary source, would only certainly benefit your test scores. Otherwise, there is no way to study of multiple-choice questions or DBQs, so just mentally prepare yourself. It pains me to use this cliche phrase, but if you “do your work and pay attention in class”, you should be beyond ready to ace this AP test in May.
7. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Starting apush may seem like a scary thing, or it may not to some of you. For me, I know I was nervous on whether or not I would be able to handle it, since I was told it was a lot like a college class. Sitting here now after my exam I can tell you it was the most difficult class I've ever taken. By difficult I don't necessarily mean the concepts were challenging to comprehend, but the workload and preparation for the AP test definitely pushed my organization and time management skills to a new level. On the plus side It made my other classes seem like a walk in the park. However, this work load was very beneficial to me come the AP test. I felt like I knew a lot of topics and their overall importance, and I remembered stuff from thesis things (you'll figure out what that is) that I wrote in the beginning of the year. My advice to you would be to manage your homework and assignments at a pace that works for you, but also push yourself to dedicate time you normally wouldn't to working on materials that aren't technically graded. By this I mean study for tests, go over notes you've taken. Don't just settle for an average answer on homework, try to fully understand what you're talking about because it'll only help you in the long run. I personally have had terrible procrastinating problems my whole life, and this class did help with that. However, I do believe if I pushed myself harder I would've remembered some topics more clearly. Hopefully you can learn from my mistakes by spreading out the time you work on assignments so you're not overwhelmed. Good luck!
8. As you sit here on your first day of APUSH, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom:

-This class is no walk in the park. I'm not going to lie, it is a ton of work and while you go through the year your going to think it's way to much. Sometimes it is. However, when you sit down to take the test in May, you finally realize why Mr. Schiavo makes you do countless Spirits, multiple choice questions, ID tests, DBQs, essays, thesis things, short answers, debates, readings, and everyone's favorite, Games (don't worry if you have no clue what I'm talking about, you will in a couple weeks).

-You have to be completely dedicated to putting 110+ percent into this class or else you won't get the results you want. Trust me, as someone who can say they survived APUSH, it is all worth it and you will be thankful for all the work you do throughout the year. So as you start this crazy journey from now until the test, just remember that it is all worth it and everything has a purpose.

-Also, ALWAYS start any Thesis Thing, Debate, and especially start every Game a couple days before its due, because let me tell you, it is not fun trying to do the whole thing the night before. I’m warning you, although it may be possible to finish it, you will get 0-3 hours of sleep if you do this, so save yourself the pain and break things up.

-Don't try and cut corners, just do everything to your fullest potential. Trust me you do not want to copy and paste anything. Don't do it. You will get caught. Do every single assignment because i'm telling you they will help you in one way or another.

-My final “words of wisdom” are that when the test comes, your probably going to go into it thinking your going to get the lowest score. Your gonna feel like you forgot everything you learned all year, but trust me, your brain remembers a lot more than you think. As long as you put the work in, you are going to be able to go through the test and answer every question on it.

-This class is going to be stressful, and your going to think there is no way your going to be able to get through it. ID test, DBQs and Multiple choice questions are going to be scary the first time, and you're probably not going to finish. But as the year goes on your gonna get the hang of it and the AP test is going to seem way easier than the class itself.

-I leave you with these words of wisdom, and I'm wishing you the best of luck as you start APUSH. Good luck, you got this!

23. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. As you are well aware, this course is not known to be one which you can simply ‘breeze’ through. Nevertheless, following these proactive tips can ensure you more success in the course, and will hopefully allow you to balance the workload with more ease than you would expect. This being said, I know from experience that abiding by the steps all the time can be difficult, most especially the procrastination aspect of the class, but I promise you will ultimately be much more grateful if you do. My first recommendation is to simply complete everything to the best of your ability, as that is an infallible way of ensuring success in the class. Though certain events or assignments may seem tedious and monotonous, and on occasion useless, I promise they are not, and you will surely see their use when it comes time for the AP test. A premier example of this is in reading the American Spirits from the textbook. I understand that in the moment, they may seem relatively mundane, but a majority of the multiple choice on the AP test resembles answering questions from the spirits. It wasn’t until the end of the year that I recognized the true importance of being able to interpret historical documents or points of view, and I hope that you will heed my advice and put in extra efforts when reading the Spirits. They also prove incredibly useful in understanding the entirety of the time period, how things fall into place chronologically, and how perspectives varied on the same topic. As well as this, never be afraid to use your voice in class, even if you feel as though your answer may be incorrect or irrelevant. Mr. Schiavo pays more concern to if you are putting in effort in class and this will never go unrecognized, so I can assure you that speaking up will be more beneficial than it will be detrimental. Alongside this, you will never be chastised for having the incorrect answer, it will simply help to start a further discussion and allow fellow classmates to chime in with their opinions. What I would consider to be the most paramount tip, however, would simply be staying on top of the assignments. Yes, the course load may seem daunting, but Mr. Schiavo gives students the time frame that he does knowing they will be able to finish within it. I cant remember a time when an assignment was given one night and due the next, meaning it’s most advantageous to divide the work between multiple days and nights. Breaking up these assignments will produce better results, and also allow you to actually get some sleep. I promise you, though you \*may\* be able to get the work done in one night and that’s how you’ve always done it in the past, it won’t be the product you want and you might not be getting any sleep. Finally, just make sure to review your notes throughout the year. There is no need to look over the information nightly, but memorizing ID’s and events the night before will not be helpful in this class, as the tests are more based off of student’s understanding of the time period and events than the dates that they are able to memorize. Just understand that if you are in here, taking this class, you were put in it for a reason, and you’ve got this! It’s easier said than done, but try your best not to stress, once you get the hang of things it’ll go by in a flash.

24. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. This class is not as hard as you have been making it out to be, and if you put the work in, you’ll be fine. Try your best not to stress, and take advantage of your classmates and turn to them for help. Don’t be afraid to speak up, even if you get the answer wrong. Trust me, I’ve said the wrong thing more than half of the time, but a little laughter lightens the room. Mr. Schiavo talks kind of quiet, so you have to listen, also because he cracks jokes that will go over most of your classmates’ heads. Multiple choice tests are pretty much impossible, but still try your best and you’ll be ok. You’ll grow to love writing IDs and essays and DBQs, because they are not nearly as hard. Try not to wait until the last minute to do you projects because they are designed to help your grade. Also, work with your classmates outside of school for things such as debates. Who doesn’t love a Starbucks date? Good luck, and don’t even worry about your AP test at the end of the year. You will be very, very prepared.

25. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. As I just finished the AP exam, I think I have some knowledge as to what’s a good idea to do during class. First and one of the most important: Do. The. Spirits. They may seem like a lot at times, but believe me having that prior knowledge makes it worth it. Reading them and answering the questions will help you understand the time period, and will help you on the exam when asked about the authors of certain quotes. Another piece of advice would be take your time and don’t procrastinate. I, too have this problem, but taking time finding good information for your Thesis Things will help you get a good grade, but also give you a nice outline of specific information you can look at before he exam. Side note, Thesis Things are not as scary once you finish the first one! Don’t over think it it’s basically an outline essay with more information than you would usually use if writing an essay in class. Also, out effort into all your work. Don’t wait until the mod before class to finish 3 chapters of spirits, or short answers because at that point you aren’t really learning which is why it was assigned in the first place. Going with that, all of the work that is given to you is for your benefit, not to put you through doing it for nothing. If it seems like a lot that’s probably because you’re in an AP class, but it’s all for a good reason: getting a good score on the exam. Thirdly, take notes! I found it was easier to write out all my notes rather than type because I’m easily distracted, but whatever works better for you to keep on top of the information being told. Lastly I would like to wish you good luck on your APUSH journey to the exam. The best things you can do for the exam is to not stress, it’s not as difficult as you would think (you will be prepared), have your friends help you/ work together if you don’t know something, and have fun with the games!!!

26.        As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. First off, do not give up when the work seems to hard. Going into this course your parents, friends, and guidance counselor will tell you it is extremely hard, super late nights with homework, and almost impossible. But if you try hard you get used to the way things work and it will become a tiny bit easier. Second, when you procrastinate doing your game, thesis thing, or spirits until 11 the night before, which will happen, concentrate and push through. Just always turn your work in on time. Third, in class always make sure that you are taking notes. Even if you are feeling a little tired or lazy, always make sure you are listening and taking detailed notes. Lastly, when you are in class pay attention. I know that every teacher and your parents are going to tell you to pay attention in school and it may seem unimportant some days, but it is really important for this class. You can daze off for a second and miss a whole lesson. Overall just try your best and you will do fine. I survived APUSH and so will you!

27.    “As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you some words of advice. Constantly complaining about the work does not help complete the work, and people will think you are annoying for it. Take the work as an opportunity to improve.

28.  Dear, Whomever I am writing to: As you shit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Do not get worried or scared that you will fail this class, you won’t I promise as long as you are not LAZY. Being lazy is the only thing that will fail you this class. It is a very good and beneficial class that you will remember all through high school and maybe all of your life. Listen in class, pay attention, and do not get lazy. Yes this class can sometimes be a lot of work, but it will prepare you for college and ongoing APs. Relaxe.

29. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Don’t drop the class after the first 3 days, Mr. Schiavo will give you a bunch of tests you will most likely fail, but take my words of advice, as someone who has been through it all, with an A, I might add. Be focused. Be prepared. Be organized. Be driven. Taking this class is not easy, in anyway. The work is time consuming, and often you won’t want to complete it. However, the **work you do at at home is crucial to success.** Whether an assignment is being graded or not, do the work to the best of your ability. **Take good notes** during class, and **be active in discussing** the information in class. Tests will seem scary at first, but as long as you do what you are supposed to during the unit, you will be prepared. Just give it your all everytime. **Games,** they are nothing like monopoly, besides the fact they take forever to finish. But in all honesty, they are great for grade boosters, so just do what you have to do, and DON’T PROCRASTINATE. Never worry about your grade, Mr. Schiavo does in fact want you to succeed, and he will help you with at home assignments to boost your grades. Don’t be intimidated by what people tell you. I survived, and you can too. Looking back on my experience, it had ups and downs, but when I sat for my AP test, I was ready, and so will you. Have fun, enjoy the ride, and hold on tight when things get bumpy, **you will make it to the end.**  Find me if you need help, Seena Ludwig

30. Dear APUSH student, As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. You’ve probably heard it all already. “The tests are super hard” or “You’re gonna be up really late every night doing work”, well here it is straight from someone who survived it all. One of the benefits of the class itself is the ability to decide how you want to organize your notes. You can choose how much you want to write down and how much you think you’ll need to know. Of course, make sure you pay attention every class to ensure you get the most out of it. Sometimes it may be hard to concentrate but it’s only an hour each day and trust me, it’s worth it to learn everything you can. Another concern u may have are the tests. I know you may be used to taken either an ID *or* essay test with prior knowledge of the questions, but don’t worry the tests aren’t as hard as they appear. As long as you take sufficient notes in class and review chapter highlights, once you get the test, you’ll be surprised with how much you actually remember! One tip I can not stress enough is being on top of your assignments. Do NOT wait until the last day to finish a thesis thing or game I promise you the lack of sleep is not worth it especially when you had weeks to complete it. Try doing a little bit a night to keep the work load down while still getting it done. Finally, don’t stress too much! Overall APUSH was a great course and I would definitely recommend it to anyone interested in history or improving their time management skills. You’re gonna rock it.

31. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. This class isn’t a class to mess around in. Unfortunately, I was one of the few that did and regretted it every test, so don’t do that. There’s a couple things that you should know coming into this class. First, listen and take notes. You will be screwed on every test in this class if you think you can figure out all of United States’ history on google. Second, your yearly grade will not depend on any one quiz or test. You’re probably gonna fail a couple and be pretty sad until the next one comes in and bumps up your average. By the end of every marking period you should be happy if you really tried on most of the tests. Lastly, do not be tricked into thinking games are fun. They are not fun and will ruin many weekend for the next school year so be prepared to work. The class is not all that bad and if you pull out with an A be proud of yourselves because it won’t come around often. Good luck on the 10 months of your lives.

32.  “As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom.”

APUSH: Stands for Advanced Placement United States History

Don't give up: Even though the class involves a lot of thinking and work it pays off in the end when taking the ap test

Spirits: Make sure you do all the spirits. Try not to split them up every time because you'll be confused in class when going over them. Doing all the spirits yourself pays off in the ap test in May, the multiple choice questions involve a lot of reading excerpts and identifying key pieces- something spirits are good practice for

Debates: The debates are super fun! The Jackson debate will last all week so make sure you have a ton of quotes and information to backup what you're saying. Robert Remini is a historian who was quoted a lot during the debate.

For the Imperialism debate you'll gather about 2 days worth of information and use only about 1/16 of it during the 3 hours you debate for.

Studying: Something I should have done more often, but was hard with after school activities going on, was sitting down to write my notes I took in class that day on flashcards and reviewing everything so I didn't have to squeeze it all in the night before an ID test!

DBQS: you most likely won't ace the first few but just make sure you understand what reasoning and context are and use a lot of it very well. Otherwise the dbqs are actually a lot of fun!

Short answers: The short answers are fun because they make you think efficiently since you have to be direct and to the point in 23 lines.

Multiple choice: Don't be surprised or upset with the first couple of grades you receive on these. Everyone pretty much gets around the same grade, but it gets better:)

Thesis Thingys: Thesis thingys aren't bad at all they just requiring a lot of research and then the rest is just peacing it all together. Key advice: organize your topics by time period!

Ask questions: Don't be afraid to ask questions about what you're learning or a project, somebody was probably wondering the same thing anyway.

Games: Do not start these the night before they are due. If you like to procrastinate start about a week before. If you don't mind sitting in your room all day for 8 hours than start two nights before. P.S don't be fooled, this is not a traditional board game. They can be super fun if you're interested in the topic.

Ap test in May: Whether you do good or bad, it's not the end of the world. Schiavo prepares you so well which is why it is very important to truly understand what you're learning in class and putting your best effort always into the games and thesis thingys! It's super fun to be taking the test and remember in order the history projects we did over the year.

Have fun: This class can be whatever you make of it, so put your best effort in and you watch the results. Take your knowledge out of the classroom and into the world

I would suggest this class to anyone even if you're not the best at history. You learn so much more than just the past. Here’ just a sneak peek of what you'll learn over the next year in your Apush class

Time management

Strong work ethic

Writing essays for other classes is nothing compared to the work in this class:)

Stop working on homework around 11:30-12:00 for a good night's rest

Helping friends out

Not to procrastinate

Taking quick notes

33. “As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom…”  
STOP SCROLLING THROUGH THIS SITE AND READ THIS  
First off, I would like to say, that if you didn't already get the memo, you just lucked out, as I’m here to tell you that everyone, and I mean everyone, calls this class APUSH.  I don’t believe Mr. Schiavo formerly introduces his class as dubbed with that name, ergo to save you some time and embarrassment…  but mostly just time, please just call it APUSH ;D   
Anyway, now that the important stuff is out of the way (ha ha), I would just like to say that you have made the right decision.  Schiavo’s class is not a school classroom, but a learning environment.  Orchestrated in such a way, his words are not just frivolous facts falling out of his mouth, but wisdom and experience.  And his jokes are… well what can I say… could be better, but I digress!!  Going into this classroom, you will feel like the wise-fool of a sophomore that you are, but coming out of it in June you will feel like a matured veteran in not just history, but life.  You will learn more life lessons in this class than many other classes that I can speak for.  Even if history is not your passion,  this class just has this sort of vibe to it that you will remember for the rest of your life, if nothing else from it.  
   It is a journey. An epic, waiting to be told.  With the exposition at the beginning of your toils in September, building perpetually with tension and suspense… all up until May.  Which is the climax… the final frontier.  Your final battle against the dreaded Test will occur, and then the overwhelming sense of joy that comes afterwards.  You will have played the hero, having climbed over mountains of games, fought miniature battles with multiple- choice quizzes, and written countless DBQs, as preparation along your quest to fight this behemoth of a test. (hey that rhymes)  And as any hero, you will have faced some lows and regrets. But overcoming these lows will be half of the fun.  And before you know it, you’ll be face to face with the Test, fully armored with your knowledge, and your sword of facts, to victoriously slay that beast, and come home with your spoils, able to live to tell the tale of your APUSH journey to the next generation of unsuspecting hopefuls.  
   However, in all seriousness, do not take this class like any other, hoping to just get good grades, and pass tests.  Take each test as yet another learning experience, striving not for good grades, but the experience and knowledge itself that comes from taking this class.  In lieu of the norm, learning should be your #1 goal in this class, and only then will good grades come, as a byproduct, as a reward, for your battles fought, and wisdom earned.  And if you’ve ever played chess, you know what I mean when I say some sacrifices must be made, in order to get ahead, and that completely applies to this class as well.  And whether that means sacrificing your personal time, or even your \*gasp\* grade, to get a better understanding, is up to you, as long as in the end you learn.  And as a little something to cheer you up, I’ll give you this cold, hard fact, whether you believe it or not.  You will be prepared in May as you’ve been training for that exact moment that whole year.  And the amount you will remember taking the test might actually surprise you.  Coupled with the fact that Mr. Schiavo might genuinely be one of the best teachers you’ll ever have, you will ace that test, and leave the room, wondering why you’d even been fretting so much over that test, because it was so easy!!  And as you will hear many times throughout the year, it’s all just a game… so take it as you will, but in the end you will agree, that it totally is.

34. As you sit here on your first day of AP US history, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom- beginning with relax. On my first day of AP history I found myself shaking and terrified, there is nothing to worry about. AP history is nothing to fear, with time you will learn and adapt to Mr. Schiavo’s style of teaching and the way each class runs- you will also learn his style of teaching is most beneficial. Additionally do not be afraid to speak. Voice your opinion and let him know your thoughts on a subject, that's the best way to learn. Do not fear giving a wrong answer, trust me I gave many and I still made it through the year. Overall the most important concept to learn throughout AP US history is time management. Start every assignment immediately, each one will take longer than anticipated- if you put the effort in. Learning to manage your time will help the year ease by, with a bit of planning AP US history will feel relaxed and almost easy. Lastly, enjoy the year. Keep a light hearted attitude, learning history can be lots of fun. AP US history was one of my favorite classes this year, and definitely worth the work. Completion of this class gives you sense of pride and accomplishment. Have an awesome year!

35. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. No, he’s not going to talk louder as the year goes on. So try to listen to every single word, and good luck if you sit across the room. If the class is too much, don’t be afraid to drop it (I probably should have.) The assignments get easier, but they’re always going to be really time consuming. Everything’s worth it though, very well prepared for the AP test, the test was easier than what we did in class. Good luck!

36. As you sit here on your first day of AP US history, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Work; an activity involving mental or physical effort done in order to achieve a purpose or result. Take a long look at this definition. This is a word you don’t quite understand until you take this course. If you are going to take this class for your whole sophomore year of high school, you are going to need to be able to handle it. Nothing you have done in either middle school or freshman year can prepare you for this. Fortunately, if your are here for the learning aspect of things, you will not be dissapointed. The amount of information you can receive about American History from this class is mind-blowing. However, that’s not why you’re reading this. You want to know “Jacob, how am I supposed to pass if you’re saying it’s so hard???”. Well, I’ll tell you how. First of all, you need to be able to manage time. For me, this was hard, because I was never any good at this. But not all hope is lost, you see. Mr. Schiavo is good for more than just his vast sense of humor. He will teach you everything you need to know about being able to work smart, rather than hard. By the end of the year, you’ll be able to write a thirty page paper in a day. But overall, if there’s any advice I can give an aspiring History Major, it’s that you are going to have to be able to sit down at a desk, and bang out a lot of work in a short amount of time, If you have that down, the rest is smooth sailing. So, if your really into history and have an intelligent sense of humor, you’re in for a treat. Hopefully this helps over the course of the year.

37. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. The most important piece of advice I could give you about this class is to always do the work. It may not always be graded or have a set due date, but it will always hurt you in the end if you don't do it. You'll end up sitting in class lost, not knowing what the discussions about or not being able to participate. Always read the readings, do the spirits, and just always do the work because it's assigned solely to benefit you. Also, participating and listening in class discussions will help you tremendously. Dazing off will not help you grasp the information, and trust me, you need every bit of information you can get. Lastly, the biggest struggle I would advise you against is procrastinating. I know more than anyone that leaving things for last minute will only cause more stress and less you to not do an assignment to your full potential. Spacing out every project and assignments will save you tons of stress. Of course, in every class you take, most important thing you could do is come there ready to learn. This class will give you so many skills, abilities, and new ways of thinking that you never thought you had before. The hard work is 100% worth it in the end, and every assignment has a great purpose. Just enjoy this class and try to grasp every bit of information he throws at you. Good Luck!

38. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Don't overthink the class.  Allow yourself to take everything at your own pace. Take your time and everything will work out. Focus on getting everything done well and it will all run smoothly. Just keep up with all of you work to make everything easier on yourself. The AP test will be a challenge but as long as you focus and remain on task you will do just fine. Best of luck!

39. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I wold like to offer you these words of wisdom.

First of all, don't procrastinate on projects and essays. You're gonna regret it when you're only halfway through a Game at 1:00 am on Sunday night. A good rule is to start at least three nights before its due, even sooner depending on how big the project. APUSH is a lot of work and will have you stressed out enough without worrying about deadlines. Second, write down a lot of notes in class. Specific events and people are extremely useful to know for all of you're tests, including the AP test at the end of the year. Anything Mr. Schiavo says to write down, do it. Next, before every test I'd recommend going through your notes and watching review videos online. There are a bunch of really good APUSH channels on youtube like Adam Norris and Jocz Productions. Lastly, you're gonna have way too many quotes for the debate in April, and most of the ones you have will be said by someone other than you, so try and find some avant garde ones to spice things up. Good luck and try not to fail.

40. Dear New APUSH student,

Oh do you have a big year ahead of you! If you think this class is going to be easy I suggest you drop right now. You have to be prepared for a heavy workload to be in this class. There are Thesis Things which are essay outlines, ‘Games’ which are projects,  Spirits which are read and answer questions, and multiple choice packets with usually 80 per packet. As a new student the most important thing is time management. You will need to use all of the time given to complete assignments wisely. To be perfectly honest a lot of the work this year I did *the night* or two nights before, and yeah it's doable but that causes an unnecessary amount of stress and mental breakdowns. Also looking back on the year, the assignments would have been so much easier had I done them the day they were assigned instead of procrastinating so much.  That would have saved me Hundreds of hours of sleep. Also, my advice is to not stress too much about the AP test, that was the easiest part of this course. Because at that point in the year you have learned all you have to learn and you know more than you think! Overall, the class is very worth the stress and you will end up learning so much.

41. Dear future APUSH student,

As you sit here on your first day of APUSH, I would like to offer you some words of wisdom. Not going to  lie to you, this class will murder you. It is definitely, by **FAR** the hardest class I have ever taken, and all of the upperclassmen/college kids I have talked to have said it was the hardest class they have taken in their lives. This class ripped my spine out of my back. I stayed up every night until 2 crying and doing the HARD work. And, to top it off, I also had an embarrassing mental breakdown and started sobbing in front of everyone one day during class! (that was fun)! This class is much harder than you are expecting. Be warned. Even though it may seem negative, this class has some positives too though. You're gonna have a lot of fun hanging out and working with other AP students from all of the class periods during debates and projects. Don't worry, this class may seem impossible but if I could get through it, you can. It is a lot of work for a lot of months but after the AP test, you will feel so much better and be glad you challenged yourself with this class.  Also, after the test you just hang out for a long time so that's relaxing. But one of the biggest plus sides to this class is that Mr. Schiavo, who once intimidated the living daylights out of me, has become somewhat of a friend, and he actually is kifunny once you understand his sense of humor.My advice to you is simple: watch crash course videos on youtube and put your stuff on turnitin.com early (unlike I did :/) or Schiavo will be mad at you. Good luck, and if you need advice feel free to ask!