Words advice for all of you from the students of the 2019-2020 classes!

“As you sit here on your first day of APUSH, I would like to offer you some of wisdom that will make this class a little bit easier for you”:

1.First and foremost, if you happened to take this class, it would be sensible to conclude that you probably go to bed every night panicking over whether you’ve made the right decision. However, do not let that mindset tear up apart. Unlike your past history classes, APUSH is not an ordinary history class where students mainly focus on memorizing important dates and events throughout the course of U.S. history. APUSH is rather a hybrid course, which not only requires you to remember important events but also makes you develop the skills to make connections from one period to another from your viewpoint of the event. In other words, you create your own history through your efforts of interpreting the event from many points of view and expect the coverage of American History to go into greater depth and breadth, something leading getting into historiography - the history of history. But don't get me wrong. We all can agree that APUSH is a college-level course, thus the expectations and standards are higher. The workload can at times be much heavier. Writing and assessment in APUSH can be intense - expect essays and papers. However, these would help you in the long term when you finally take your big exam on May 15th. Prior to starting the course, there are some important habits that you should develop to succeed in APUSH, which includes regular attendance is an absolute necessity, as class discussion and lectures will cover the materials not easily found elsewhere. Absences for sickness or family emergency does not impact the teacher, but rather you, as it is the responsibility of the student to turn the work missed ASAP and to acquire the notes that you missed. Your participation in lectures is the key to go well in the class, allowing to bring new ideas and perspective spread amongst you and your classmates. Students who participate in class on a regular basis tend to perform better on the tests and on the AP exams than their peers. You should be expected to have homework done daily. There will be times where you are required to stay up till 2 P.M. to work on thesis things, major debates, or games. However, most importantly, something that I as an APUSH still failed to accomplish, is to turn in your work ON TIME through Turnitin! I cannot stress this enough, but it is very important that you turn in your work on time. In addition, having a time-management skill plays a role in turning your work on time, without creating a lot of stress. When receiving an online assignment, whether it be an essay, thesis thing, or a big game, try to start the assignment quickly by breaking up the assignment part by part each day, instead of procrastinating and end up throwing an unprecedented time of all-nighter with the boys to work on the assignment and soon become sleep deprived.

Regardless, with the help of Mr. Schiavo, who is a marvelous history teacher, APUSH will be an amazing class. Enjoy the class as much as you can and try to stay relaxed but focused. Good luck!

2. You’re probably feeling nervous, and unprepared, but you wouldn’t have taken this class if some part of you didn’t feel ready for AP US History. Always remember that. Take a deep breath and tell yourself you can do it. When it comes to classwork, you should always be taking notes. Make sure your notes are neat and consistent because that's really going to help you with the AP exam. Write down anything and everything! Also, when you’re discussing in class, if there is ever anything you don’t understand, don’t be afraid to ask questions. I promise you Mr. Schiavo is very kind. Tests are always stressful regardless of AP US History. If you make sure to study and review before the test, I promise you you’ll be fine. Lastly, really try and spread out your work. You may endure a lot of work once and a while, so you need to stay on top of time management because sleep is a thing. Now just sit back and enjoy because it goes by faster than you think. Have fun!

2.5 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. First thing first, this class will be one of the most challenging classes that you have taken so far. The work that comes with this class, pushes you to a new level when it comes to improving your historical and writing skills. In this class, you will almost always have work that is very time consuming but crucial. So my advice to the future APUSH classes would be to not procrastinate and do the work that they are assigned in a timely fashion. I would also advise them to make sure that they understand the content as well. Don’t leave everything until the last minute so that you can be prepared for future tests or quizzes which would help your grade as well. However, your school grade isn’t the only factor that will improve. This process will also help you achieve a better grade in your AP tests in May. So, buckle in because this will be a very interesting experience, not only for you, but for everyone in your grade who is taking this particular class as well.

3. For most of you, this is the first ap class you’ll be taking in your high school career. Although the work itself might not be too hard, the amount of it can be extremely overwhelming, especially when you’re just beginning to transition into much harder classes. Use the time you have to your advantage and try not to procrastinate. You’re more than capable of doing the work, but if you decide to do it a few hours before its due, you won’t be able to do the best you can. Along with that, don’t be afraid to ask questions. If you’re confused about something, chances are someone else is, too. It’s better to get reassurance over a topic than leaving it and have the confusion build up as the course goes on. Lastly, try not to stress too much. Even though this is a new experience for most, try to enjoy every moment, even if history’s not up your alley. In short, have fun and try your best.

4. Don’t:

One of the biggest mistakes you can make in Schiavo’s class is not showing up. Unlike other classes, you will never get “work” to make up. The entire class is a discussion, and not showing up because you didn’t feel like going to school that day will only lead to more stress. You are constantly worrying about what you missed that day and praying that it doesn’t show up on the ID test. Basically if you are an athlete or are in any clubs that require you to miss the end of your day, get your butt to the guidance counselor's office and have your APUSH class moved to the morning if it isn’t already.

Secondly, DO NOT, I repeat, DO NOT try and write all 3-6 chapters of spirits the night before they are due. Based on personal experience, you will find yourself losing many hours of sleep and regretting your decision once you sit down to try and grind them out. The same goes for Games. When Schiavo says “you guys have 2 weeks to complete this”, take that as a blessing. DO NOT wait until the weekend before it is due to try and write or type up a 7-12 page document. This will only lead to headaches, loss of sleep, and the worst wrist cramps in your life.

Do:

My first piece of advice, and probably most important, is to TALK. The entire class is Schiavo and other students just talking about whatever the topic of the day is. It is the easiest way to learn things. Also, even if you’re someone who doesn’t like to talk or thinks they are always wrong, none of that matters in APUSH. Literally, as long as you have an opinion about something, you should talk. It even helps the class go by much faster.

What you should also do is take notes. Schiavo is one to talk fast and soft so listen closely and write as fast as you can. By November your wrist and forearms should be strong enough to keep up. Don’t worry about your notes being pretty, just get it all down.

It’s not that bad:

APUSH isn’t that bad of a class. Once you get through the first few weeks of class, the rest is very familiar and easy to navigate. On the first day of school I remember thinking how this year is going to be a constant grind. It really wasn’t as bad as I thought and I think as you sit here on your first day that’s all you have to hear. Goodluck :)

5. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. *The American Spirit* is a book that is the fundamental to this class. When chapters are assigned to read and take notes on, I strongly recommend doing so. The class discussions are based upon the chapters and by reading them, you will automatically have a greater understanding of the topic compared to those that didn’t. Reading and note-taking will especially help you gather information for future tests, especially ID tests. Regarding these, they can be difficult to take. Not only are there a large amount of questions / questions that require lots of information to answer, but there is also limited time. Not to mention that all tests/quizzes/essays taken in this class are done on limited time. However, although it appears stressful it is very possible to finish within the set time period. Even if at first you find yourself unable to complete these assessments, over the months of practicing doing them your test-taking abilities will greatly improve. Multiple choice tests, in my opinion, were the hardest of all the tests to take. I always found myself with an abundance of questions left unanswered by the end. One piece of advice that I’ve heard was to think quickly, but smartly. Don’t waste too much time on one question, instead assess it swiftly and choose the answer the makes the most sense. Again, reading and discussing the *Spirits* in class will help you with your answers. For DBQs and short answer questions, there isn’t much to say besides that they will get easier over time. You can’t really study for them, so the best thing to do to prepare would be to...... pay attention in class when talking about the *Spirits*!!! Remember that I referred to this book as a **fundamental**. When you are assigned projects, don’t wait until the last minute to do them! These are fun to do and by procrastinating, you’re just going to ruin the enjoyable learning experiences. Lastly, the most important thing to remember is to think for yourself. I understand that it may be easier to just agree with what other people are saying, but it is far more impressive to share your own opinions and ideas. By developing your own opinions, it will help you gain a deeper understanding of history.

6. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Enjoy every moment of this class and take advantage of the resources and knowledge Mr. Schiavo is providing you all with. Don’t take the easy way out, as you will not get the greatest takeaway from this spectacular course. Schiavo is one of the best teachers in this entire school, and I’m grateful to have been able to sit in his classroom to learn. My biggest struggle adjusting to the class expectations was definitely time management; not so much when completing classwork assignments like quizzes and tests, but when completing homework and games. In early weeks, I thought I’d be okay to wait until the weekend before to begin spirits or a game, but I quickly learned that option was impossible. The best advice I can give you as you start the year, is to seriously take in everything Schiavo “babbles” about. As my time in this course is coming to a close, I am extremely grateful I took this class and stuck it out, the results and everything you will learn are worth it.

7. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom, “Great works are performed not by strength, but by perseverance.” by Samuel Johnson. Now I only found this quote as I am nearing the end of my sophomore year of taking this class, however it completely sums up my experience through it all. Every person you talk to asking about the experience of APUSH will definitely tell you that it is a hard class and that they have probably thought about quitting at least once. Sometimes the work might seem crazy and hard, but just think about all you will be learning from pushing through and getting it done. Every time I get stuck writing a Thesis Thingie, or researching for a game, or preparing for a debate, the first thing I always tell myself is that it all will be over in a week or a few days or the next morning. Once you press that turn it in button or say your last response in a debate you instantly feel relieved and can’t believe you just did all that. I promise you every time you finish an assignment, you’ll feel ten times more confident in yourself and your capability to respond to some very hard questions. The first few assignments might seem so hard and you probably can’t even fathom getting through it and getting a good grade, but I promise you, you are just overthinking it. It is not all that bad and once you do a couple of the same thing, you’ll understand how everything works. Now for some it takes longer than others to get the hand of things, but don’t push yourself. Take your time, obtain the knowledge, and show it in your writing and your words. As I sit here writing this piece of advice for the new coming apush kids, I can’t help but remember the beginning of my school year walking into the class being scared out of my mind. Not knowing what to expect and how I will handle what is thrown at me. I can safely say as I start to wrap up my sophomore year and this class, that I am proud of everything I have done. You will have a new sense of confidence in yourself leaving this class. You will be able to trust yourself and your ideas when taking future classes. Many people in the school say that this class is one of the hardest classes the school has to offer. Now that might seem very intimidating and make you want to drop instantly, but I promise you will regret that decision. When your year ends and you are writing your advice to the next class, you’ll realize how much you have learned and how much you're thinking capabilities have been involved in just a short time span. Never doubt your mind or your words. Never stop connecting things from the past to the present. And always, always preserve no matter how daunting the assignment given is. Good luck for you upcoming year and I wish you all the best!

8. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. The times ahead will not be easy, you will go out of your comfort zone to say the least. You’ll learn a lot about yourself over the course of this class, and improve in every way possible. My first day of APUSH I was still stuck in stubborn turmoil, and reluctant to motivate myself. You’ll soon realize that those parts of you don’t hang around long, and you’ll be pushed to your limits in every regard. If you feel as if you don’t know what you are doing, you probably do not and that is ok. You won’t know for a while, and the beginning will feel like an upwards battle; constantly being confronted by all of your procrastination and writing flaws and being forced to handle them head on. It’s going to feel slow at first, and you’ll question why exactly you wrote over 5 essays in one month. However, when the journey picks up, it doesn’t slow down; and you’ll be along for the ride whether you like it or not. The first “game” is usually the breaking point for many APUSH students, it was certainly mine. I felt so burnt out and hopeless that I really didn’t know what to do with myself, especially after being told I’d have a DBQ the following week. If your first thesis thing sucked, which it definitely did, then you are not alone. Mine was TERRIBLE, two pages and I had absolutely no idea what I was doing. However, at this point and time with the AP test only being 4 days ago, my Thesis Things are 11 pages long and incredibly better than the ones early in the year. Onto Schiavo, you won’t understand his method and what he looks for at first but you soon will. If he notices you are lacking but trying your best, then he will certainly be the first person to reach out and provide additional support for you. He doesn’t favor the silent kid who does everything perfectly, but rather the person who tries their best and provides something to the class. He especially loves a different perspective, and if you are super cool, then you will make his journal for future classes. I think I made the journal about 4 times, I could be wrong. Don’t feel like your perspective on something is stupid, there are no stupid questions unless it interrupts class time according to Schiavo. Your perspective is what will carry you through the class, and it will develop over the course of the year; that’s why your first few pieces of work might suck. You’ll learn that the opinions developed by you are far more important than the facts provided, and Mr.Schiavo will recognize those opinions and how they develop. Although, Mr.Schiavo’s kindness is not to be taken for weakness. You can’t get around him, he knows every loophole one can find in the work and will call you out for it. Another tip, Turnitin.com checks for plagiarism! I wish I knew that in September when I used some work from my friend who took APUSH the year before me, Turnitin logs every piece of work you will do; and the classes before you. Another tip, make sure your class speaks up and does their Spirits! If not, you’ll have to submit every single Spirits piece just like Mod 2 this year; except I was mod 1 so couldn’t have been me. Overall, I’d like to remember the following.

 1. You will feel like an idiot in the beginning if you are anything like me, but you’ll get over it.

2. Find a solid group of people to help you get through this course, it won’t be easy alone.

3.It will go by super fast so try and enjoy developing opinions and recognizing your incredible improvement over the course.

9. When entering this class, you will be expected to do more work than you ever have before. My best advice would be not to procrastinate and to step up to the challenge. While there have been times where I have started an assignment the night before it was due and was able to finish, allowing yourself the time to do the work in the long run will be better for you. It is only an overwhelming amount of work if you let it be. You will find with an assignment there is an endless amount of information to include. It is better not to limit yourself with time and to allow yourself to dig deeper into the subject. The more work you put into your assignments of finding outside information, the better you will do on your ID Tests and you will really be able to understand the time period. In terms of ID Tests, some may say that they are impossible to study for. I found that even if a term you study is not on the test, what you study can still help you in your answer, and the work you have already put into your spirits and thesis things will help you throughout the test. Overall, what I have found throughout this year Is the more you do to stay on top of spirits, attempting to dissect the readings given, and digging deep into a game or a thesis thing, the more confident you will be in yourself when taking your AP Test in May.

10. 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 overhyped by past students and you will do fine. This class at Mainland Regional High School has a cult like status. Students who worked through this class call it incredibly hard and say that you will make through only with a lot of tears. This is a false notion that has been repeated since I was in middle school. I don’t mean that the class is bad, it is the best class I have taken. The skills it has equipped me with will go on to influence all of my future decisions and work ethic as a student. What I really mean by the “overhyped” statement is that it is not as hard as people say it is. Make no mistake, this does not mean this class is easy by any means, it is very challenging at times, but you will do fine. The past students who hype this class up as the hardest class they’ve ever taken are either lying to you or do everything at the last minute and have no concept of time allocation, so don’t believe the hype. You will do great in this class if you allocate your time wisely, work on assignments over a few days, and pay attention. That’s all you need to really succeed in this class: a decent work ethic and some writing skills. Now, to calm your nerves one last time on this first day of AP US History I will tell you that you're in good hands when it comes to teaching. Mr. Schiavo may be the best teacher I have ever had; he cares about teaching, hard work is rewarded, he dives in deep when it comes to history and presents multiple points of view, and most importantly, he will make an effort through the work he gives to better you as a student, not just for the class, but for the rest of your student career. There is no busy work in this class. I never really talked in this class(I’ve really only spoken out to Mr. Schiavo once out of class), nor had any direct relationship with Mr. Schiavo, so you can trust me when I say that he may be the best teacher I’ve ever had. Now, on your first day of AP US History, make sure to relax and be ready for a year with a great teacher and interesting subjects to learn.

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

Truly speaking, enjoy your time in this class because time will fly quickly and before you know it, May will come around and you will be finished for the year! To me, looking back at this year, it feels like September was yesterday, and I was sitting in that classroom even though our year got cut short. This course and school year will be very rewarding for you. You will be a different person than you were at the end of the year compared to the beginning of September when you came into B5.The first few weeks and even the 1st/2nd marking periods of APUSH will feel overwhelming, a few of your classmates will drop out and you’ll be given a very heavy workload, but I encourage you not to drop out, not that it’ll get easier after the first few weeks, it never does, but that you’ll eventually adjust and complete the work faster. In other words, the workload is intense but doable. **It is all worth the experience in the end.** If you really dedicate and take your time to not rush through any of your work, you will do just fine. **A big piece of advice- Don’t Procrastinate!!!!!** DO NOT cram a game or even any assignment into one night, you will not retain any of the information and you won’t get the satisfaction of doing the work in one night. You will always look back and think you could have done better if you started earlier. With that being said, try to get your work done that Mr. Schiavo assigns you, he really does assign everything for a reason, and you will recognize that in May after APs. Even though I barely talked in this class I highly recommend that you speak up in class and express your opinions. Don’t be afraid to speak during class, its not a big deal if you don’t speak much in the class but highly recommended! The important thing to do is pay attention, take good notes, and understand concepts to the best of your ability. In the end, be proud of your efforts from the entire year and try to enjoy the class. Finishing the AP test in May will be the best feeling in the entire world. Everything from the class is worth it. To conclude, I wish you luck and enjoy your time in B5 learning US History!

Make sure you don’t forget to “Circle Up!!!!”

11.5 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Enjoy yourself. The class could seem boring at times but finding ways to laugh or have fun while learning with help you more than just taking notes or dozing off. Don’t be afraid to say something even if it's stupid because chances are, you’ll say something that will make somebody remember how you related such a silly question to the history topic. It’s also not as much work as others have told you. It’s like a week of work than a week off just explaining what you learned.

12. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Before school started, I had heard a lot regarding this class, mostly that it was a crazy amount of work and you have to basically dedicate yourself to it. Of course this thought can be nerve wracking, but just know that even though I would say it's more than most, it's meaningful work, as opposed to useless busy work. You will actually learn from doing all the assignments, and topics that I was previously unsure about, I now feel confident and unphased about explaining. Generally, I would say that you will understand the big picture of history/government, (even economics) on the grand scheme of things, instead of just being forced to memorize random individual facts and dates.

If you don't already have good time management skills, I would work on that as soon as possible. Your work ethic will definitely improve especially within the first two months, and you will quickly learn that waiting until the last minute sometimes just isn't an option. Your writing skills will also get better, and you won't even realize it. Looking back on the first Essay, it's a crazy improvement.

You also learn how to formulate an argument not just in history, but in any context. When you're forced to get absolutely anything down on a paper in a limited amount of time, you begin to get really good at putting together an argument, even if it's not the best, you figure out ways to sell it and still hit the points you need to get a good grade. By December, you will no doubt be able to write a good essay in 15 minutes, which is something I previously loved that I could never do. I can honestly say that I would feel confident and in writing a convincing essay on a topic I know nothing about on the spot because of this class.

Overall, don't worry. I only regretted taking this class during like two assignments, and i'm so glad I took it right now (May), so as long as you do the work, pay attention in class at least 50% of the time, and put in your best effort, you will genuinely develop valuable skills in this class that you will be able to apply outside of school.

13. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. I know that this is a scary time, and you’ve probably already heard “horror stories” about this class and the workload as well. I’m here to assure you that while this class is difficult, it is also nothing to be scared about either. The first couple months is definitely an adjustment, but after getting in the grove of the class, the year flies by. This class just like any other commitment, and to perform successfully you have to put your all in; this means paying attention in class, getting a head start on your work, and putting real effort into your work. All your hard work is going to pay off, not only for your ap tests but for your own education, you genuinely learn and understand so much in this class, it's incredible. Study hard, and try your best, it will pay off!!

14. We had a different test this year that was best for what was happening with the coronavirus. Since, the only thing we were tested on was the DBQ, that is what we prepared for the most down the stretch. . I thought we were well prepared for the DBQ and would have been well prepared for the essay question., the ID’s or multiple-choice questions. We took all those tests as they rotated throughout the year. So, I would not add or subtract anything to make me feel more prepared for one type of question on the test. We did everything as much as possible and as equal as possible. I felt I improved as much as I could for each test. I was horrible at multiple choice in the beginning, but by the end I was able to get a decent grade. ID‘s and Essay questions I was decent at both and felt was really good by the end. I think we practiced everything enough to be prepared for each type. Plus, after we learned it was just a DBQ test, we did a few more practice DBQ’s and timed ones with the different kind we had on the AP test. For my DBQ question, I had how did Reform Movements change society from 1877-1912. I felt that my response had everything needed to get a high score, however I was really close to running out of time so I couldn’t re read my work and I’m afraid some of it didn’t make sense. I think we definitely did enough in this course to be prepared for the DBQ. The things we did in the last week really helped me, I felt way more prepared for the DBQ. Finally, for the Short answer questions, I found them the easiest so was glad to do them the least amount. I felt that I only needed to practice them on cep or twice and be fine. So, I would not add or subtract anything we did this year in any amount.

As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Do not procrastinate, on any game, debate or homework assignment you do. Each assignment is hard enough enough already, doing it at the last minute just makes it way harder. Also, do all of your own work it makes you way better prepared for the tests throughout the year. This is a great class that you can all do well in if you do your work, don’t procrastinate, and talk in class. It’s a great year, I learned so much in this class, but put in the effort to do so. This class doesn’t just help you learn U.S. History, it helps you learn how to take a challenging class and succeed. This was one of my favorite classes that I have ever taken, but you have to put in the effort, once I realized that it became much easier. You will enjoy yourself in this class this year and you will learn so much.

15. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. *Do not procrastinate.* When I first entered the class I heard that Mr. Schiavo assigns a lot of work, and I was a bit nervous; still, I thought I’d be able to knock it all out pretty quickly as it was assigned. You’ve probably heard the same stories about his work by now, and maybe you’re feeling as confident as I did. Don’t get too cocky. I know from firsthand experience that writing a thesis thing (more or less an essay outline packed with as much info as possible) in one day can be a grueling experience. Try doing a little bit of work every day. I’ve found that it’s much easier to do work piecemeal, that way you don’t have a huge chunk of work to get through in one day. You’ve probably got extracurriculars and other AP classes that take up a lot of your time, but trust me when I say it’s worth it to take a half hour out of your time every day to do a bit of work on an assignment.

It’ll become especially important to manage your time well when you’ve got a game due. Games are Schiavo’s projects, and they count for two test grades; they can make or break your grade, so take your time going through them as thoroughly as possible. A project might not sound like much fun, but they are called ‘games’ for a reason. Try to enjoy them. The process of learning and applying all this information that goes into a game can be really satisfying. Don’t rush through them.

Earlier in this letter I said don’t get too cocky. What I’ve said about the volume of work might be a bit off-putting. While I stand by all that, don’t get discouraged or undervalue your work ethic! By just signing up for this class you’ve shown that you’ve got a drive to do as well as you can, even if it’s tough. Stick by your decision and don’t drop the class, even if it gets tough. Schiavo’s a great teacher and an interesting character, and I wish everyone would take this class for him alone! This has easily been the best class I’ve ever taken, and I wouldn’t want anyone to miss out on this experience.

16. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Your first few weeks in this class are going to seem intimidating. At first, I will not lie, the class is kind of difficult. At first the work you’re given seems like a lot. I thought it was an absurd amount of work. But the problem isn’t the work, it is often procrastination. Mr. Schiavo won’t give you a lot of work due the next day, he often gives you a couple of days' notices so that you have time to work on it. One of the biggest lessons I learned in this class is that you cannot procrastinate. Although it seems like a lot at first, around December you will start to get more comfortable with the workload. It took me a couple of months, but I finally stopped procrastinating. Once you start you work early, giving yourself time to do the assignment, the stress you previously felt disappears. It seems stressful but when you start the assignment when Mr. Schiavo gives it to you, you have more than enough time to do it. The class itself is not that stressful. You learn a lot of great things and Mr. Schiavo will often teach you a whole different side of something, often changing how you viewed that time in history. If you enjoy history, he introduces you to many amazing historians who has great ideas on what we’re learning. At first, thesis thingies will seem torturous. The first one assigned I left to do the day before it was due. I had to stay up all night doing the work. Just remember to put in as much information as possible. There is no such thing as too much information. Try to talk in class. I, like you may be, was very shy and scared to speak up in class. However, I promise you there were a hand full of moments where I knew the answer, was too scared to say it because I didn’t want to be wrong, and then ended up being right. It may be scary thinking you will be wrong but, you may think this is a crazy, nobody will laugh if you’re wrong. It’s good to be comfortable in that classroom and if you get that one question wrong nobody will care. Seeing you speak up even if you are wrong may help other people start to talk in class. It helps everyone when you speak up in class, so don’t be afraid. The class is a lot of work but in the end it will be worth it. You learn so much about history, and in the end, you might enjoy the work assigned. Good luck, and don’t worry, everything will be alright.

17. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. At first, this class is going to seem very overwhelming, but once you start to understand and manage your work, everything will go smoother. You should focus on time manage the most and never procrastinate your work. Throughout the year, there were times where I waited last minute on projects and it did not go well. I would end up staying up super late and overall, just not doing my best. That being said as soon as Mr. Schiavo assignments work, you should try to start it right away and schedule the time where you're going to work on it. This will lead you to be so much less stressed and do much better on all your projects and assignments. My second piece of advice is to listen and try to stay as focused as possible in class. Mr. Schiavo will always talk about the most important things of the chapters, and those things that will be on the ID tests he gives you. In addition, make sure your taking good notes that are easy to read. Your notes will be your most useful studying tool and you're going to want to be able to look back and understand your notes. I also advise you to highlight the terms that Schiavo emphasize in class, so that you know they are important. My last piece of advice is to talk during class, even if you're worried about being wrong. My class and myself barely talked during class and it drove Schiavo insane. Not only that, but it affected our grades as well. There were many times where I thought I had an idea of the answers but got too nervous to speak. I late regretted this, and I wish I spoke more throughout the year. Even if your answer is wrong, its ok! Overall, these three things are what I wished I knew walking into this class, and I hope it helps you be as successful as possible.

18. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Although, the specific facts do help a lot, it’s more important to understand the historical significance than to stress over specific dates and facts (those can be memorized over time when you continuously look back into it). In AP US History, you are going to be required to speak more than your other classes since it is a discussion-based class, so it’s best to share what information you want to share and not be scared to speak because someone else is probably thinking the same thing as you, as well. The most important and essential piece of advice is to not to procrastinate. As long as you actually do your work outside of class hours and know you’re trying your best, you will do good in AP US History.

19. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. This class will be an immense challenge for all of you, and there’s a very large chance that you will be heavily stressed throughout several portions of the schoolyear. However, it will all be worth it in the end. From completing this class, you’ll learn numerous skills that will help you in future, more challenging high school and college classes. AP US History will also give you an extreme amount of in-depth knowledge about our nation’s history that students in other levels of classes will not be able to receive. So, this class will benefit you in several ways that will prove to be very important later in your life. Aside from the advantages received after taking this class, you will also learn a lot of new things about yourself throughout the year while trying to complete some of the assignments you will be tasked with. This will be demonstrated by your multiple 3 AM study-sessions before a big test or cramming an entire project in just a couple of hours. Even though this seems like a huge challenge, which it is, do not give up. You will never achieve anything you want to achieve if you don’t have the motivation to complete tasks like this. So, be prepared to work your tail off and good luck!

20. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you some wisdom. First off, congratulations! You did what many of your peers consider ambitious or even impossible. I hope you read the assigned reading, because I promise you it is prevalent all year long. Do not fear Schiavo, I know he looks intimating and the idea of taking your first AP class is daunting, but he is a sweet person who only wants the best for you. You are soon going to get the book we all dreaded getting, the amazing “American Spirit” with so many primary sources to decipher that you will want to scream. Do them. Do every single one that you are assigned. Schiavo gives them because they link to so many important things, and you honestly feel so much smarter after you have done them. This class is a lot to deal with, trust me I know this. Looking back on when I was exactly like you on the first day of school, I am astounded by the progress that I have made. This course has taught me so much more than I realized it could, and I have become a stronger person because of taking this class. I am now able to pull all-nighters with ease, and I have never been able to write a better essay. I am fully aware that you are probably nervous and feel as if you cannot do it or that passing this class will determine your value. I felt the exact same, and although I was smart enough and had the grades, I could not help but doubt myself. The power that you possess to do well lies in your mindset. Do not let the discouragement in your head convince you that you are not cut out for this class. You can persevere, and you will become a better person academically for it. You have all the tools to succeed, including an amazing teacher who wants nothing but for you to thrive. Do not give up, no matter how much you want to. You can do this; I believe in you.

21. As you sit here on your first day of AP US history, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom, do not do what I did. I did not fail this class, nor did I even come close to. However, if you want to get a better grade than a B, then don’t follow in my footsteps. First off, be sure to take pretty good notes in class. This was something I failed to do. Write down any events that seem important that Mr. Schiavo says. The more you write, the more prepared you are for the tests. Also, do not procrastinate. This is very important. A lot of AP students, including myself, tend to wait until the last minute to do homework, projects, games (you’ll learn about games later in the year) and studying for tests. This will only leave you with work half as good as it could have been if you wait until the last minute because you won’t have enough time to come up with something that will get you an A. If you don’t study until the last minute, you won’t be as well prepared for the quiz or test. Trust me, I only studied on the day before and I found myself staring blankly at some of the material. Also, use quotes, and a lot of them. On projects like Thesis Things and Games, you need to use a lot of quotes to get a good grade. It also helps to get more quotes down if you don’t start the project the day before it is due. Also, when the project guidelines say 1 or more quotes per question, use 2-3. With those instructions, I used 4 quotes for 3 questions and got minimal points. Learn from my mistake, get a better grade than me. If you want an A in that class, I would highly suggest you at least consider what I suggested you to do. If you are fine with settling with a B, than ignore what I said above.

Finally, I would like to share with you tips for writing a DBQ, since it is the only test I can honestly say I was really good at. Ignore what the teachers tell you about taking time to read the documents and submit what you have, because if you listen to my method what you will have at the end is a very good complete essay. Everyone else for the most part struggles with time while I consistently finish with at least 5-10 minutes left, giving me time to look over what I wrote. First off, write your opening before you read the given documents. This will allow you to quickly write your opening without worrying about what the documents say, which makes you write faster and makes you less stressed out. It also helps you come up with outside information, which is a big part of a high score on DBQs, since you give yourself time while writing your opening to come up with events and ideas to support your thesis. Then, skim-read the documents. You only need to skim-read them because there are only like1-2 sentences in each document that you can use to support your ideas. This will allow you to finish reading much faster, and it gives you time to write a really long essay with quotes from documents and outside information. Finally, don’t worry about the closing. Some of your classmates will not even get to the closing since they will be out of time, and they still could get a solid grade without it, meaning closings don’t have much value. If you give yourself more time by doing what I suggested, spend that time building better middle paragraphs and support your points with quotes from the documents and outside information, then you will score highly on DBQs and the DBQ on the AP test. I finished the AP exam with 10 minutes remaining to look over what I wrote while other people were turning it in last second or were left to not have time to turn it in at all. I got A’s and high B’s on these tests using this method without really studying at all. And I am confident that this could help you out as well.

 I hope that you will do well in this class. I’d highly suggest for you not to drop out even though there is a lot of work. My reason for this is the AP test. Getting a good grade on that can and will help you when you are looking at colleges. You won’t get an opportunity to take and ace the AP test if you drop out. I hope this information helps you and I wish you the best of luck during this class, because you’re going to need a lot of it for the multiple choice tests.

22. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. This class will challenge you like no class you have ever taken before. With that being said, rather than stressing yourself out, you should rejoice at the fact that you will be a forever changed student when you finish the year. Your year in APUSH will basically consist of four main parts.

The first part is class time. During this time, it will be like an unrelenting train of knowledge rushing through your brain, and you need to grasp it all before it passes you by. Mr. Schiavo will talk to you for the entirety of the class and your hand will need to be moving constantly as you scramble to retain as much information as possible by scribbling down your thoughts in your notebook. The most essential part of class, however, is not obtaining all the information, but providing communication with Mr. Schiavo as he asks questions to the group. Without any feedback, the class will not run smoothly, and you will fall behind.

The second part of class is the American Spirit homework. You will almost always have an opportunity to be working on spirits for your next in-class review. A great portion of the class revolves around the homework assignments that Schiavo provides you. This means that it is highly important to complete these assignments, even if they are not being collected. You do not want to be lost. Trust me, it is not fun by any means. The most important thing to consider when assigned these Spirits is to not procrastinate and put all the work off until the night before it is due. You do not want it to become a burden.

The third part is Thesis Thingies. At first, you will dread them because they may be confusing and unlike any homework assignments you have ever done before. There is a great amount of time and research required to complete these assignments, and you do not want to wait to start them at midnight on the night before they are due. You will be up all night. However, as the year goes on, you will learn to balance the workload and perhaps spread it across a few days or utilize weekends the best you can. By the end of the year, they will be a piece of cake, you will be able to provide an abundance of information without a concern because you will be so used to it.

Finally, the fourth part of APUSH class is the debates and games. Do not let the name deceive you, games in this class are not particularly fun. That is, if you put them off until the last day before they are due. Games are like those regular projects that you get assigned here in any normal class. However, they are much more complex than average projects and they will require you to be creative and think critically. For the debates, you will need to be highly prepared, and you cannot walk into them expecting to wing it. You need extensive information including quotes and sources to enforce the point you are trying to make. There are only two of these throughout the year, so make them count and try your best.

Overall, the most essential and important skill that you need to master in APUSH is diligence and efficiency. You have to think to yourself, “Do I want to let all of this work hang over my head for days, or do I want to get ahead and spread out the work to make it easier on myself?” This thought process will allow you to excel in this class. Class time will allow you to gather all the information you need. Thesis thingies will allow you to master organization and writing for the exam. Debates and games are highly important to your success in APUSH because they have the weight of a test, and if you perform poorly on an ID test, success on a debate or a game can be the difference between a B and A- average. In conclusion, this class will turn you into not only a much better student, but an excellent writer, time manager, collaborator, listener, and most importantly, you will be more than prepared for the rest of your education.

23. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. This course is challenging but will end up being helpful. Although the work might seem overwhelming, it isn’t as bad as it seems. Work should not be avoided until the night before it is due unless you are prepared to sacrifice a good amount of sleep. Mr. Schiavo usually gives plenty of time for the work to be done without feeling rushed. The Spirits are really helpful in remembering and connecting ideas. Reading and answering the questions in the Spirits help understand Schiavo’s “babbles”. When ID test or multiple choice test time comes around, don’t be discouraged if the grades aren’t what you expected. Growth is a part of the course and it does happen if you put in the effort. Also, don’t be afraid to speak up and participate in class. Although it might be intimidating, participation is also key to reinforcing the ideas you are supposed to be learning. If the effort and time is put in, the class will fly by.

24. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. This can be a great class if you take the time to do the work and really soak in the information, I don’t recommend taking the class to just take it. You need to really care and enjoy learning history for this to be a good class. I don’t recommend taking the class if sports takes up most of your time. If you do prepare to have a lot of late nights. The best advice I can give you (if you are devoted to a sport) is to spend your time wisely and spread out the workload for your assignments, start ahead of time. If you start last minute, you could be pulling an all-nighter. The workload for this class is a lot but, in the end, I felt that it was worth it, you learn so much! You also get better at writing essays and thinking quickly, which is super helpful! Another thing you improve on is public speaking. You do a lot of it, every day to be a matter a fact. This was helpful for me because I was never one to answer questions or give my input in class discussions. If you aren’t comfortable with speaking in class, you do get used to it eventually. Start off small, and just throw in an answer or two occasionally, just to build up to it. Soon you should be able to just talk in class regularly and be able to put in your input. This brings me to doing your work. This is not a class where you can just wing it. You need to actually sit down and do the work that Mr. Schiavo assigns, or you will be so lost in class. Schiavo will assign pages in a book (The Spirit Book) and you will have to do it (almost) every night. He doesn’t check the work, but it's your responsibility to do it because the next day in class is when you talk about what you read. And that’s how you learn in this class. By doing the work. That is all my advice if you are thinking of taking this class this year. The work is a lot but if you take the time to do it and understand it, you will do fine.

25. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. You have probably heard lots of different things about this course, one being that it is extremely difficult. I completely agree. This class challenged me every time I stepped into the classroom and continued to do so as the classroom became our bedrooms. The workload is challenging, you’ll get lots of work to do and you will often get overwhelmed. I did think about dropping the class many times BUT I can promise you that it is worth it. All the tests, essays, historian essays you are assigned are all for a reason. Mr. Schiavo teaches you to be a better writer and student in a way no other teacher can- I can assure that. I’m not saying you will love this class all the time, I guarantee you won’t. However, the greatest accomplishment is finishing that AP test you prepare for all year, finishing out the class and being able to say that you did it. You completed a class that many will quit, and many wouldn’t dare to be brave enough to complete. The only good advice I can offer to any incoming sophomores, is to not give up. This is such a rewarding challenge. Even though I didn’t get all the grades I wanted at times, it helped me build a lot of skills I wouldn’t have gotten otherwise. Another piece of advice to remember- ALWAYS read the historian essays he assigns (Hofstadter will become your best friend). They are filled with big words you won’t understand, but it is never good when he asks a question and your class goes silent. That was mainly just my class, infamous for not doing work, and I don’t recommend it. Do the work he assigns, even if it seems boring or time consuming. It pays off and you’ll earn some brownie points. As part of mod 2, I can assure you don’t want your class to end up with the reputation of mine. This is the same for spirits, that book becomes an unfortunate best friend- but it all pays off in the end. APUSH is hard, no doubt about that, but it really is worth it. You already chose the class, and you’re here- now finish it!

25.5 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom… You’re in for a wild ride with this class. It’s a lot of hard work and effort, and you're going to do more work than you’ve done before, for just one class. This sounds like a scary concept, but once you figure out what the heck you’re doing, it’s really not too bad.

Firstly, don’t be scared of Mr. Schiavo. In all honesty, he is one of the best teachers I ever had. He wants you to succeed, and he knows how to help get you there. Don’t be afraid to ask him questions, or ask him to repeat himself if you missed something. Take notes, but don’t rush to write down every word he says. It's important to understand what Schiavo is saying and discussing (ask questions!!!), and not just have a bunch of random notes written down. Do your work, listen, take notes, ask questions, and above all TALK. This class is basically a high school version of a college class. You sit and discuss, so do not be afraid to talk. (Not to mention it gives you brownie points with Schiavo if you contribute to the discussion).

This class will be stressful, there is no doubt about it, but don’t spend your time stressing and worrying over APUSH. One of the most important things you need to do in the class, that also helps decrease stress, is managing your time. Do not wait until the last minute to do work. Trust me, I know, most classes you wait until the night before to do a project or write an essay, and you get decent grades; however, procrastinating in this class will lead you to pull many all-nighters and receive not the best grades. This doesn’t mean to spend all your time doing APUSH work, and to throw away your social life. It will take a while, but eventually, you'll figure out a good schedule for yourself: figuring out how much time you need to do an assignment and finding the time around the activities going on in your life. During the beginning of the year, I did Marching Band, and trying to manage my time with never taking a class like this before, was one of the hardest things I had to do for  this class. Once I figured it out, getting assignments finished on time and done well became, if I dare say, easy.

I know history might seem boring, and you might not have the best idea of why you’re taking this class in the first place, but stick with it. Along with boring, old history, you will learn and improve many important skills. You will improve your essay writing skills, getting things done under pressure and with a time limit, and your discussion or just overall talking skills will get better. Through all this, Schiavo makes the class as fun and enjoyable as he can, so definetley appreciate it.

One more time for the people in the back… TALK!!!!! Even if what you say ends up being wrong, you’ll probably make Schiavo laugh, and it'll help you learn better from your mistakes. Ask questions, ask Schaivo to repeat himself, and contribute to the discussion.

Have a fantastic year!

26. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. As you might have heard, this class is the hardest class to take in Mainland. I’m here to tell you that this statement is an over exaggeration. This class is unique in that the material in the class is not hard, but rather it is a lot of work. You’ll have to dedicate hours of your day to this class which may seem daunting at first but after a few weeks to a month, you get the hang of it. I would recommend trying to manage your time as best as possible because if you leave work until the last minute, it's going to hurt. I also recommend not dropping this class; you’re going to have to power through it because in the end it’ll all be worth it. The experiences you learn during this class can help you with important skills all the way through college such as working in groups, managing time, reading, and writing. You won’t believe me when I tell you you’ll be able to write a solid five paragraph essay in twenty minutes. Before I wrap this up you must understand that grades do not matter in this class. Of course, you always want to try for the highest grade possible but don’t get worried about one or two bad grades because you will have extra assignments to make those up and it’s always a learning experience. Learn from your past mistakes because soon that C you got on your first essay will turn into an A in no time. Again, I repeat, do not drop this class! You’ll regret it more than just staying with it. Have fun and good luck, sophomore year is one of the best.

27. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom: First off, take a deep breath. Take a look around the classroom and admire those Wilco Posters. A few days before school began, a series of thoughts were swarming in my head. I was not sure if I was able to handle this class or if it was as difficult as people said. However, when I took those first steps into B-5, I knew that I would overcome whatever this class threw my way. Don’t worry, you will too. Below are a few things to keep in mind throughout the year.

1. I am not going to lie. APUSH is a pretty tough class. You will receive assignments that require a large amount of effort. You will spend some nights where you are sitting in front of the computer and think “I can’t do this anymore.” However, when you are done that project that you have worked very hard on, you will feel a sense of content. That feeling of submitting work after hours of time being put in is indescribable, and this class will always give that to you.
2. Two words: never procrastinate. Although it is possible to finish the assignments given in one night, it is not wise to do so. Spread it out, do a little bit each night. You will be so thankful that you did not wait until the last minute. This is much easier said than done, but it will help in the long run.
3. Always do your spirits. Sometimes, reading those primary sources can be boring and you may feel that they are not benefitting you in any way possible. But when I was taking ID tests or writing DBQ’s this past year, I tended to remember certain facts from the spirits that allowed me to incorporate lesser known details or outside information into my work. This will ultimately help on the AP exam because it will prove to the graders that you really understand the information you are writing about.
4. Try your best to contribute to the discussion in class. It is understandable that some students are nervous to talk in front of a group or fear that they might be wrong, but it is always better to try rather than sit quiet and get nothing out of the conversation. You may propose a viewpoint that other people have not thought about or even initiate another deeper exploration of historical facts. If you have a question, do not be afraid to ask. There are definitely other kids in the room that have the same question.
5. Do not waste your time in stressing out. Mr. Schiavo will prepare you for anything that comes your way throughout the year, whether it is ID tests, DBQ’s, multiple choice practice, or the AP exam. Obviously, though, it is always important to put in your own time and study. Even if the studying consists of just five minutes a day and going through your notes from class, it will go a long way.

Good luck and enjoy your awesome year in APUSH!

28. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. The first thing I would like to say is do not procrastinate. This class will become so much easier if you do not leave each assignment to do until the night before. It is easiest if you do a little bit each day from when it is assigned until the due date. It can be really tough at times to get the work done, especially if you have a lot of other work or play a sport, but procrastinating will make everything worse. You may have heard that this class is really hard. When I was coming into APUSH, I heard words from past students like, “This is the hardest class at Mainland.” Although I do not if this is true because I have not taken any other AP classes, it really is not that difficult. It just takes time and effort. As long as you work hard and put forth your best effort, you will be fine. The assignments and tests may seem overwhelming at first, but they get easier to do as the year goes on because you will start to understand them more and begin to get the hang of it. Also, take good notes in class. I took a lot of notes, which may have seemed unnecessary at the moment, but they really helped me towards the end of the class leading up to the AP test. I would advise you to complete all of the work, including the Spirits, because they help you and teach you a lot as you approach the DBQ and ID Test for each unit. Overall, I would say the main factor of APUSH is time, regarding tests, quizzes, and projects. In the beginning, you may not finish an essay you are writing during a test in time, but I promise you it will get easier. In September, I could barely write an essay in an hour, but now, I can write one in 20 minutes. This class certainly pays off and I know it will definitely help me as a student in the long run. Many students do not take APUSH because they do not think they are smart enough, or that they will not be able to handle it and will have to drop it. This is how I felt when I was deciding whether or not I should take it, but I am very happy that I decided to. You, too, may have felt like this, or may still not know if you made the right decision, but I can guarantee you that you did. Finally, do not be scared to talk like I was. When it came to the debates, I was terrified to talk because I did not speak up that much in regular class. Although you may feel intimidated by all the work, or Mr. Schiavo in the beginning, there is nothing to be afraid of. Just do all the work and do not procrastinate, and I promise you all your hard work throughout the year will be worth it. It may seem very tough at times, and you might feel like giving up, but don’t! You can do it!

29. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. First of all, don’t be scared to speak up in class. Even if you are not sure if you are correct, it’s better to take a shot than sit in silence. I would also recommend taking the best notes you can during class because studying them before your tests will definitely prepare you for the id’s. When taking the ID test, always put as much information as you can and finish the ID’s before you start your essay. When finishing your essay, always do your best to try to fit in a conclusion paragraph and make sure you have a strong thesis. Once you have a strong thesis, writing the body paragraphs will come easier. For the thesis things, do your best not to procrastinate. Although they are quite a bit of work, the information you learn while doing them will stick around and help you later on in the class. Lastly, don’t procrastinate on the games! The games require a lot of research, time, and effort, and I do not recommend waiting until the last minute to do them. With your games, get as creative as possible and make sure to keep yourself organized. Good luck next year and don’t stress yourself out too much!

30. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. This will be the most challenging class you will have taken at this point in your academic career. But don’t let that overwhelm you because the benefit of taking this class far outweighs the workload. In the summer before sophomore year I was hesitant to take the class because of what I had heard from previous students. I was so nervous about the amount of work that I dropped AP and moved to the honors course. After a week in honors I realized I had made a mistake because I enjoyed learning about history and felt AP would challenge me more. So, the next morning I visited Mr. Schiavo and explained how I would like to take AP History instead and he was more than willing to accept me into his class. Instead of taking the easy way out I decided to take on a challenge and it was one of the best decisions I ever made. Mr. Schiavo is a brilliant teacher, unarguably the best teacher I’ve ever had because he enjoys teaching and learning from his students. He allows us to think for ourselves and develop our own opinions on history all while making the course an enjoyable experience. Yes, there is a lot of work, more work than you will have ever done for a class but trust me it’s worth it because at the end of the year you’ll realize just how much you’ve learned. As far as assignments go, I started working on every project basically the night before, which in hindsight wasn’t wise especially when you start to panic at 4 am that it wouldn’t get finished (I’ve watched the sunrise more times than I probably should have). But if you take the time to enjoy what you're doing the work really isn't that bad. You will be impressed by how much you have written when you look back at your work throughout the entire year. On that same note, keep in mind when writing that quality>quantity, Mr. Schiavo doesn’t grade based upon whether you can write 30 pages on imperialism, he grades based on your understanding of the topic and how you can apply it to class discussion. So, keep in mind to speak up in class even if you think you may be wrong because I promise other people were thinking the same thing. At some points throughout the year you will start to get one assignment right after another but please don’t get discouraged because as Mr. Schiavo likes to say, “it’s all just a game!” To sum up; do your work, pay attention, and have fun! I **promise** you that by the end of the year you will have had no regrets about taking this course.

31. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. On your first day of APUSH, you probably walked into B5 at least somewhat terrified. After all, there’s a lot of hype built up around the class. To be fair, you probably heard APUSH horror stories from an older sibling, or even from someone a year ahead of you, in order to keep the tradition of a pre APUSH spook going. The classic tale everyone’s heard, in my opinion would be the late night/early morning work session. Think 2-3 am. I love my sleep, so that was a concern in the beginning. I'll tell you right now that the fear of staying up excessively late is overdrawn, but with that said, it’s not entirely false.

Personally, I was still able to get a goodnight’s sleep with APUSH, other AP’s and sports. But I knew kids in my class who would do everything last minute and stay up and do do work till 4 am. It sounds terrible but trust me it’s not that bad at all. One valuable lesson I learned from my time from my time in apush was that apush was as bad as you made it. AP history is probably the most work intensive class at Mainland, and you’ll learn that soon enough. You’ll soon realize that the material isn’t all that difficult, but there’s just a lot going on in terms of work. To succeed, you have to juggle apush with all your other classes, sports, other extracurricular activities, and just life in general. Sounds a bit scary right now, but it’s not so bad. In my experience it all boiled down to time management.

In class, there’s a good chance that there will be overlapping assignments. Like two or three things would be going on, but they’d all be due at different times. So prioritizing work and doing that work effectively is key. If you don’t want to burn yourself out, you’ll have to come up with ways of working effectively, while also not mentally gassing yourself out. You want to avoid that point of just working and working till you’re staring at your spirits and nothing is even registering in your head. That’s a waste of time, and also, that’s not a fun time. Instead of just brute forcing all my work at one time and getting overwhelmed, I broke my work down into bite sized chunks that I could manage. For example, if there was a chapter of spirits due in one week, I would check how many days I had to do it. Then I would split my work accordingly, like I would say to myself that I would do three spirits every day. That way, I had an easier time getting work done, and a better quality of sleep than a good portion of my classmates. When it comes to studying, I suggest linking up with a few friends and studying together. It really helped me out. You’ll learn more that way

Lastly, once you get the work part down, and you’re no longer stressing over getting things done, you can really enjoy class. Pay attention and you might just learn a thing or two about history or even life. Once you get into it, class can be really enjoyable, so enjoy it. Even If you forget your historical knowledge, the work habits you learn in AP history will be valuable for years to come.

P.S. Listen to Wilco while you study. Your furniture will start levitating.

32. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Schiavo is Schiavo. He will prepare you in ways no other teacher would for the AP test. The Spirits, both books, may keep you up until 3:00 during some nights, but it will all be worth it. The projects as well, coming from a person that puts things off to the last minute, GET THEM STARTED BEFORE THE LAST DAY! When you see the word “Game” on a piece of paper, DO NOT think it will be fun and easy. It is really the complete opposite. They are the extremely large projects that will keep you wide awake at night. You must, yes that is a must, keep ALL of your work in Times New Roman Size 12 Font. Don’t do all of your work on Google Docs. It will make it that much easier when trying to submit on Turnitin with seconds to spare. However, although Schiavo makes us do all of these amazing and fun things in class, he is only preparing us for what seems too far, but what is really right around the corner. The AP test, although much easier this year because of Corona, is going to put you under a lot of stress. However, if you pay attention, do your work, and allow yourself to listen to Schiavo’s words, you will be fine. If you are sick, or not feeling well, just remember, you are missing out on a lot of information. Make sure you are able to get notes from others. For your sake, do not pack up at the bell. Schiavo most likely is not done speaking. Although these tips may seem harsh, these will prepare you for what is to come. Coming from a person who had debated a couple times to drop out, it is all worth it in the end. If you do not think you can do it, you definitely can. When it is all over, after you have passed the AP test, because you will, you are going to be relieved that you stuck with it.You are going to realize that this class not only prepared you for the AP test, but for your future as well.

33. There’s a couple of things you should know before you take APUSH. It will be the best, most beneficial class you’ve taken up to this point in your life. It won’t be the most fun. It won’t be your favorite. But I can guarantee it will be the best class you take as a learner. You’ll learn how to think better, learn how to manage your time better, learn how to work faster, and of course, learn the history of our country. As someone who had done extremely well in school for their entire life, this class was the first time I’ve ever struggled with anything school related. Coming into the school year, I didn’t know how to work efficiently and early, which was ultimately my downfall. During the first marking period, I was a mess. I was trying to juggle too many things at once, playing a fall sport, adjusting to my other AP courses, keeping a social life, it was all so much weight me. Keeping up with everything was extremely difficult. With all these things to worry about, procrastinating in this class did not work for me, and it will most certainly not work for you. Learning how to stay on top of things and giving yourself enough time to do assignments is probably the most important skill I learned in this class. I also didn’t really know how to study coming into the year, as I just never needed to study. The best decision me and some buddies made this year was to create a small study group, where we would study together in the days prior to an ID Test. Without this, I probably would have failed quite a few ID tests. One of my main suggestions to you is to create a study group early on, and keep it small, 3-4 people max. One of the things that happened this year that was a surprise to me was that I became friends, or at least friendly, with nearly every one of my classmates. Our class group chat, “APUSH Me Off A Cliff 😎” really got me through the year, as we shared memes, opinions, complaints, and knowledge to each other. So I would definitely consider making a group chat with all of your classmates early in the year. And the last advice I have for you is something I was uncomfortable talking about to anyone, solely because I was ashamed of it, but now looking back I realized it was a very good thing. On one of the first assignments of the year, I stupidly copied someone else’s thesis thing (you’ll find out about those later). Full on plagiarism. Mr. Schiavo emailed my parents about it, which of course didn’t go down well with my parents. Honestly, I was mad at Mr. Schiavo for it, and felt like he was the one who had done something wrong, not me. But it wasn’t until later that I realized he was really just looking out for me, not trying to hurt me. In fact, he was rather forgiving about it, letting me redo the assignment with an extremely minor penalty. Once I looked at it from a new perspective and understood that he was just trying to do what was best for me, everything changed. Schiavo really set me straight, and I can easily say that I had the best academic year of my life. Without this experience, I probably would have just been BSing my way through the year, not really putting in the necessary work to succeed. Instead, I truly did the work, and actually enjoyed doing it. But I’m hoping whoever’s reading this won’t need to have this experience, and can just learn from mine. Don’t cheat. Do the work yourself, you won’t regret it. Even with many long nights and early mornings, many hardships along the way, and even some tears shed, I can definitely say this year was a successful one. Good luck kids, you got this!

34. As you sit here on your first day of APUSH, I would like to offer you some words of wisdom that will make this class a little bit easier for you.

This may sound broad, but it’s important; arguably the most important piece of advice that could be used throughout the duration of your time on the rollercoaster that we call APUSH. Be smart. I say be smart as it applies to all aspects of this class, and if you chose to be smart in each and every feature of this class, you will succeed.

In class discussions, be smart. Participate, say what’s on your mind about the topic, even if you're scared to say it.

For homework and at home assignments, be smart. Try your hardest on every single piece of homework, thesis thing, reading, and essay. There are no limits in this class. The effort you put into these assignments will show not only in your grades, but in how much knowledge you have on U.S. history, which evidently will help when AP testing season rolls around. The more you put into these endeavors, the greater you will thrive in this class.

On ID tests, multiple choice exams, DBQ’s, and short answer questions that Mr. Schiavo will give you in attempts to improve your successes on the AP test, be smart. Work hard and be smart with your time in the days before these tests. Form study groups so you can bounce off of each other's ideas, study every night like the test is the next day, and put as much information into your ID’s as possible, so you can fit as much in when it is actually test day. Pro tip: Aside from writing your ID’s in your notebook to study with, type them up so you can use them as neat material during your AP exam studies.

For debates, games, and other big projects, be smart. There is no official winner in debates, despite what arguments may be made in conversations and group chats outside of class. Despite this, come into class like you are there to win. Make points, complex or simple, use as much quotes as possible, research, prepare, research, and prepare. Pro tip: for the Jackson debate, know what a pocket veto is. Also, during the debate, answer the questions posted on Turnitin the night before in your own online file, so you are prepared to answer with an outstanding response the following day. For games, the advisement comes up again about putting as much effort into them as possible. Your grade will display your efforts.

I conclude this message to the next generation of APUSH kiddies by saying be smart, but have fun. Your first day of class may seem like the tensest day of your life, like B5, the most legendary classroom in Mainland, is a brick where you can’t move as little as breath or flinch. A little humor and lightness goes a long way to make this class one of the best you’ve ever been a part of.

Have fun, try your best, use MLA format, and drift off during class while looking at the multitude of Wilco posters Mr. Schiavo has on the sacred walls of B-5.

By the way, Mod 9 is the mod to be in, it’s good luck.

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

This class seems very scary, and in some ways, it is. The work is a lot, and the assignments are hard. However, you will come to find that it doesn’t have to be that way. If you work smartly and diligently, you will be able to cruise through the year.

When I first got to the class, I did not know what to expect. Mr. Schiavo is a great teacher and he lets you figure out how to comprehend the work by yourself which helps greatly in preparing for future. So, me and a few of my friends in the class all got together before every test and studied for a day or two at each other's houses. This helped us focus and stay on top of the material we needed to know. We got a lot done and we got very good at studying over the year. My first advice is: study in a group with people you can get work done with.

Next, we must talk about the “Games” AKA projects. These Games are very worrying when you first get assigned them. However, throughout the year, you will get used to them. In my opinion, the first Game assigned was the hardest one for me, and after that, they all get easier. The key to completing these games is starting them the first time you have a chance. Many other people in my class were always up to 3 in the morning trying to finish these long projects. However, I the project is assigned over 3 weeks for example, split it into 3 parts and do each over the three weekends so it stays out of the way of your other class work. My second advice: manage your time wisely.

Finally, the last part of APUSH is the in-class discussions. While Mr. Schiavo is talking a ton, while you may take notes, you don’t have to write everything down. I heard somewhere that if you are listening closely instead of blindly writing stuff down, you will take it in better. However, you still should write major points down. Also, try to participate at least once a class in discussion, as it will help in your participation grade and will help you get in Mr. Schiavo’s good side. My final advice: participate in class regularly.

Actually, I lied. This is my final advice. Don’t stress. You will do great! I believe in you! Good Luck!

36. As I am writing this letter it has been just over two months since I began online learning for this class. Thankfully, I was able to experience most of it in person, which I hope you will as well, but in case you do not I have some words of advice. The first of which is to not underestimate the work you can accomplish; the first few assignments will be hard to get through because you are not adapted to the workload and thinking processes, however, if you continue to put in the work you will "break yourself into" the class in a few weeks, and I can say this on behalf of my entire class, that once you get through this period the rest of the year is much easier. This leads me to my next point- be committed to the class and stay committed; many times I have heard students starting the year off strong and attentive but as time passes they begin to think they can do just as good in the class without doing as much work - this is false, if you put yourself in this mindset you will fall behind. The last word of advice, allow yourself to stop memorizing singular terms to study for tests but make connections between the terms such as to cause and effect, or group terms into main ideas, making connections like these will help you learn faster, remember things longer, and help you prepare for any test.

 We are living through a historical time period that will be a focal point in future AP US history classes. So rather than dwelling on the negative aspects to this reality, try and think of it this way; one important pattern that I have learned in this class about American history is that it runs in cycles, meaning that there certainly are rough patches likes wars, depressions, and plagues across time, but following each of these eras there is without a doubt a longer stretch of good - because we were able to skillfully adapt and bounce back. So, try not to approach the present as most people portray it but more so as a time of development and reconstruction for a better and brighter future.

37. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. This class may look impossible at first, but you’ll get used to it after the first few months. You'll hate the work that Schiavo will be giving you, but then you’ll realize that it wasn’t that bad even though it really was that bad when compared to your other classes. Managing your time will be important for this class. Many of the “games” that you’ll be doing aren’t that difficult, but it will consume an enormous amount of time. Procrastination will be your worse enemy in this class so do not wait until the last minute to do the work. If Schiavo gives you a week to do the work, then start the work a week before it’s due. But if you do wait until last minute, you’ll probably get it done either way. It's really up to you if you want to stay up late at night doing the work or doing a little each night. The ID tests aren’t so bad either so don’t worry too much and stress over it. Also, do the Spirits a little each night which will be way better than doing them all in one night. Besides all that, listen carefully to what Schiavo is saying because his voice can be really quiet sometimes. 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...

When you get an assignment make sure to start before the day it is due. I can say from personal experience as a procrastinator, to not take that approach. You will end up stressing yourself out and you don't want that because you will have many extensive essay assignments to do, grouped rather close to one another. Try not to get to overwhelmed early on when you have “Thesis Thingy’s” you will eventually get breather. Spirits are going to be huge part of the class so you should take the time to do them when their assigned for two reasons. One, for your own well-being assuming that you will do better on tests. Two, so that you will avoid the awkward silence sand staring that occurs when no one answers the questions. My advice for the debates is simple, have LOTS of quotes.

In conclusion, I think you made a very great decision to take this course. At times you're going to question why you are in the class, but it is all worth it in the end. I feel that I experienced what a true college class is going to be like, while learning so much at the same time. I truly believe that what I learned this year was useful beyond just the AP test, but instead life in general.

39. As you sit here on your first day of U.S. history, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. You might be a little overwhelmed at first but trust the process. The first month or two might stress you out because it is a different high school experience. That is a time to begin to understand what good time management is. Do not procrastinate or you will be up drinking coffee after midnight to keep you awake. If you get your work done and make it a priority you will be fine. No doubt the workload is tough since this is an AP course, but when times are tough do not think of quitting. Mr. Schiavo is a great, genuine, and knowledgeable person and an even better teacher. Above all else make sure you listen and ask questions if needed. Make sure you do your Spirits that you will be assigned eventually. They may be tedious sometimes and you might want to put your head in a gutter, but it really is some interesting stuff. Reading and analyzing historical figures and their words is really something that is not only fascinating to learn but also very beneficial for the class. People might hype up the course too much as well. Don’t get me wrong you have to be dedicated to your schoolwork, but in reality, it is not bad and really overall a fun and interesting place to learn U.S. history. Above all else, make sure that you are absorbing the information given to you. The most important thing in my opinion is making sure you are learning. There are going to be topics you covered before, but there still will be different historical interpretations and topics later in the year that Mr. Schiavo will teach you which will be new. You will have a lot of fun with the debates he gives, and you will do fine on his ID tests and DBQ’s if you keep up to date with the material. It will be a lot of work and time, but if you are eager to learn about our great nation, prepare for a wild ride in APUSH.

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

Most of the rumors you have likely heard about this class are true. Some are not. This class is likely not as scary as you have been told it would be. While tedious, it’s not a very boring class to take, nor is it especially skill intensive. The defining factor of this class is that it will consume more time of yours than all of your other classes combined, and a lot of effort will be needed externally from class. The requirements to this class in terms of work can be grouped into two groups: studying and actual assignments. Studying will be extremely important, specifically studying specific events and their importance. It will also compose of practicing key skills needed for essays and

41. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Mr. Schiavo is an interesting man. I do not know how else to say it considering English is not even my first language. I sat right next to him near him by the trash can which represented my entire year. If you sit near him try not to go insane by his weird habits. The disgusting paper towels, the orange peels that could be composted, I lost a pencil to the trashcan please do not do that. Try to pay attention, speak in class it helps to retain the information because there is plenty of it. Try to bear with his jokes, he has a dark sense of humor that can be very questionable (from experience he made jokes that were less than funny) at times. If you sit next to him, he will notice everything. And if he messes up, I will give you the power to slap him. I never got to do it was waiting until 4th Marking Period, but you children must keep him from being strange. Do not procrastinate, but do not be those people who just want to get the work done because sometimes they did not retain the information as well if they took their time. Please slap him if he messes up because trust me, he will. He gives you a lot of work but if you do it right, I think you are guaranteed to do well on the test with minimal to no studying for the actual AP Exam. Please person who sits near him make sure he does not do anything stupid. I would say the best advice I could give you besides speaking in the class is communicating with past APUSH students. I had a few friends who were a year or two above me and they were willing to clarify any issues I had whether it was with the DBQ or formatting. Just do not be one of those people who take other people’s work and change a few of the words and turn it in. Plagiarism is wrong and it can really cost you. If you are in online school this advice will still apply to you guys except you probably will not be able to virtually slap him so just tell him if he did something wrong. Always ask for help and questions even if it is minor it will help you guys at the end.

42. Dear, nervous student

As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Do not be afraid to talk in class! I know it is a very scary and nerve-racking thing to do in class and especially in front of a lot of people, but I am here to tell you it's not that bad once you talk. Take it from me, it took a while to talk in class, but it was not that bad. Even if you say the wrong thing, Mr. Schiavo will not make you feel bad about it, he helps you get to the correct answers. Honestly, answering questions in class correctly, makes you look good and helps your confidence as well. I am not the most confidence person, and it took me a while to become more vocal in class, but in the end, you will feel more comfortable around your peers and Mr. Schiavo.

Also, if you are a choice student like me or just recently moved here and do not know many people, don’t worry you will get used to everyone and make friends. This was the only problem for me while I was in this class. I did not know anyone and was too afraid to talk, but as time went on everyone got close in this class and it honestly was a fun class to be in. Honestly, this was one of the best classes I took and I am very happy I took. You will learn a lot and will have fun in the process. Honestly my words are not really filled with wisdom, but my goal was to give you real advice for this class. I hope you have fun in this class because I know I did even if it did get cut short.

43. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Every assignment, whether it is Spirits, Current Events, or a “Game,” will turn you into a great student. Make sure you do every assignment to the best of your ability because they’re assigned to help you, even if you feel the opposite. Although it seems like a lot of work now, it will pay off in the end and you will feel the most accomplished you’ve ever felt. In the beginning, I was overwhelmed by what I was told I was going to have to do, but as the school year went on, it got much better. Writing essays, DBQ’s, and thesis things got much easier because of all the practice I had with them. I learned not to procrastinate with assignments, though. You may feel that you can get everything done in one night, but it is very difficult to come up with a great writing assignment within limited time. Spend your time wisely to do your work, so you won’t feel as overwhelmed finishing it. Make sure you study for any tests or quizzes that you can. They are helpful to prepare for the AP test, so if you understand topics easily by studying, it will pay off in the end. Winging it will not get you anywhere in this class, so always be prepared. This class is not just about learning the same historical events you’ve been learning since elementary school. You will learn so much more, aside from history, like skills needed for your adult life. Really enjoy your time as an APUSH student because it is unlike any other class I have ever taken. Lastly, wear something warm whenever you have the class because the room is always freezing. These are my tips to succeed from one APUSH student to another. Good Luck!

44. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Within the first few weeks of school, Mr. Schiavo teaches you about John Winthrop’s City Upon a Hill. Make sure you understand this concept. You can bring that idea up in almost every single essay you write. Applying that one idea to almost every piece of work that you complete will do a lot of good. A strong foundation within the first marking period will allow you to understand the teaching and testing style in Mr. Schiavo’s class and allow you to know what to expect.

Throughout the year, read the handouts. They will be important and brought back from conversation to conversation. Do the homework and the Spirits. Sometimes, when the class is quiet as homework is being reviewed, it is because most of your classmates did not do the homework. If you have the advantage of knowing what is going on in the Spirits, you will be able to chime in and help the class move along.

In the projects, like the Games or the Debates, make sure you speak up. I was typically quiet in class but talking throughout the projects helped me a lot. Your grade will reflect your ability to voice your opinion and ideas in your project.

If you have trouble with a concept, or if you missed a day of class, make sure you stop by to check in. You can work out what is wrong and come up with a game plan if you stop by and work things out. The harder classes get, the harder the students need to work to stay in contact with the teacher and the new learning ideas.

Lastly, this AP US History class scares a lot of kids. People get scared of the workload and become worried based only on what they have heard about the class, and do not try to challenge and push themselves to take it. But walking into the classroom knowing that Mr. Schiavo will arm you with the knowledge that you will need for the exam should push you through the days when you have an essay that you did not yet start, and that is due in a day because you had a band competition, or a sporting event over the weekend that took all of your time. You will be ready for the exam, and you will thoroughly enjoy the class.

Do not let the idea of the class scare you, because once it is over, you will realize that the amount effort you put into the class is the same amount of knowledge you can leave the class with. Have fun with your work; you will love the class.

45. As you walk into your first day of AP United States History, I want you to first remember how you got there, all the work that led to being in that class. I assume you were in US History last year, and maybe even in middle school. APUSH was my third year in a row of learning United States history, and the journey over these years felt very complete after I finished the AP exam. Of course, my AP exam was altered by Coronavirus, but the stress was THERE. Remember, as you sit in the classroom on your first day, that you are worthy, you are smart, and you are a bright student who will adjust to the workload.

Mr. Schiavo is one of the best teachers I’ve had, and every single assignment, no matter how long it takes, helps you remember important moments of every period of US history. By May, I felt very confident in subjects that were not discussed as thoroughly in younger grades, which tend to focus on wars or the founding of the government.

I would suggest you find your “niche” in this class—that is the overall theme or topic that interests you most. For me, it was reform movements and their impact across hundreds of years, seeing society evolve and the shifts in power and political views. Maybe your thing is foreign policy or laws but finding an area of history that you love learning about makes the class so much more fun. It's okay to not find a particular area interesting though! There are many different topics covered in this class to keep your attention, and if you are a writer, you will THRIVE. This class helped me expand my skills on researching and wording arguments greatly, and I feel so much more confident than I did in the beginning of the year.

A lot of this class is testing and preparing for the Big Exam, but what I have retained most is studying skills and the ability to analyze multiple perspectives on situations. Throughout the year, I found myself more able to understand how the world got to the point it is now. I notice causes and effects of situations and the impact small moments can have on history. You will be surprised by the skills you learn throughout the year that will benefit every area of your life.

When it comes to classwork, it will feel like a lot (especially debates). But it is SO worth it to take good notes and read through your Spirits. You are capable of learning so many things in this class and will be shocked by how much you remember by May. Keep your notes as well! Write IDs throughout the year! Do anything you can to better yourself and your understanding on history.

Overall, have fun. You will make many friends in your mod and with other mods, and Mr. Schiavo finds creative ways to bring everyone together. Class discussions can be very fun, especially the current events. I loved hearing my classmates’ outlook on the world and their views on historical moments. Hearing another side’s argument or perspective can be wonderful and open you up to possibilities you would not have found otherwise. These discussions helped me qualify so many arguments, with classmates bringing up situations or causes I would have never thought of.

Most importantly, you are in APUSH because you are a bright, hardworking student. No matter how tempted you are, do not drop. It will get easier and you will never regret taking this course. Remember that you can do anything you put your mind to and so much happens in this class that you are bound to find a topic of interest. Take advantage of your resources and your friends as you navigate Thesis Thingys, DBQs, essays, and ID tests. This is going to be a great year for you!

46. 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 thing to survive this class is time management. People will tell you how horrible the workload is in this class, and yes, it is more than I’ve ever had for a single class before. Despite this, not finishing a game in one night, or not saving thesis things to the last minute is how this class will be manageable. During the year, you will hate this class, and probably cry too, but in the end, it really had helped me. Before this year, I struggled to write an essay in one day. Now, it’s no big deal and a lot less stressful. In my opinion, one of the most stressful parts of this class are the ID tests. You have to be prepared with all of the info and have it all remembered. A tip for this would be to study more than one day in advance so you aren’t stuck studying for hours the night before the test. One last thing to know about this class is that Mr. Schiavo puts a lot into this class and cares very much about the improvement of his students. It really shows because I feel that I have become a better student because of him and this class. So, in the beginning of the year when you are doing the first assignment, the Emerson Essay, and think about quitting, just remember that you should push through and it will be worth it in the end.

47. As your sit here on your first days of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. If you would have told me at the beginning of the year that I was passing the class with an A, I would have told you that you were insane. Now, I am not promising you an A, but I will promise that if your work hard with integrity and ambition, your grades will easily reflect that. If there were something that I wish I was told at the beginning of year, it would be “trust the process.” The process of stressful late nights, hours of research and studying, sweaty palms on test day, and the list goes on. I wish I would’ve just trusted the process some more.

 This class is hard. I will not sugar coat it; I will be straight forward with you. This class is very hard, and easily can be acknowledged as one of the hardest classes at Mainland. There are hours of work to do and sometimes not the desired amount of time you think you need for it. There is back to back assignments and hours upon hours of looking for things you don’t even know where to start. However, I can say that even though I came here to learn history, I learned so much more than that. The things I learned to do during this class was something that 1. no other class would’ve taught me and 2. things I will use for the rest of my life. I learned how to research with valuable and good sources, manage my time with school, sports, and social life, handle stress, be independent with my work, and complete good work under time restraints. These things may not be so important now, but in college it may be the only thing that keeps you going and makes you successful.

 At the beginning of the class, I genuinely thought it was going to be another year of learning the same stuff I have been learning for the past 10 years. Revolutionary War, slavery, Civil War, blah blah blah. Let me tell you, I was caught by surprise. The Spirit Book is something you will hate for the entire year, and sorry, that won’t change; but it shows you PERSPECTIVE. There are so many different sides to the everyday history topics and I learned SO much more from reading real life encounters of people and the different views they had on it. It really adds to your capacity of knowledge. Again, you will forever hate that spirit book, I still do; but it is more a friend than an enemy.

 Lastly, Mr. Schiavo is a *wonderful* teacher. Yes, there are days where sitting through a lecture may not be the most exciting part of your day. I have always been a visual learner, so power points and board examples were always my thing, and majority of teachers at Mainland teach that way. I don’t think I have ever seen Schiavo write something on the board. Ever. The talking lectures were SUPER boring at times and all I wanted to do was sleep, but it made me learn in a way I wasn’t used to; which is another thing that a lot of college professors actually do. So, I personally think that Schiavo helped me learn in ways and learn things that I would not have been able to do if it wasn’t him. And he is really corny so you will appreciate that on your worst days.

 That’s basically all, I think. Don’t stress. Well, not too much at least. It won’t be a breeze, but I will be SO worth it, and I can guarantee that every APUSH alum would say the same. I may have despised the class throughout the year, but I thank it for the things that I took from it. So, have fun, enjoy learning, and don’t forget to trust the process.

48. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. I am certain you have heard the many rumors surrounding the class, but nonetheless, I promise it is not as bad as it is often described. This year will be difficult, but the work is something that is extremely beneficial. In September, you might not realize this yet, but all the hours of work that are put into the class help to greatly improve your knowledge of history and society. Throughout this class’s duration, you will realize the importance of paying attention and doing assignments to the best of your ability, as well as, in a timely manner to achieve success and enjoyment.

Initially, the style of the class will be overwhelming. A major aspect of this is the amount of research and individual learning you will have to do. This will be a trend throughout sophomore year that makes it much harder to adjust from previous grades. It’s best when you recognize this earlier on and become more aware of having to learn independently. Despite this, there is also a lot to learn in class, as well. As you go over Spirits or go over background information, it’s important to take in as much as possible. This requires taking notes and reading assignments. Personally, it was easier for me to take fewer notes and focus more on what was being said. An additional part of this is listening to others’ opinions and taking different perspectives into consideration. Understanding multiple perspectives is a key aspect of this class and it will be helpful, particularly on the AP Test.

I’m sure you’ll hear a lot about this, but time management is essential in taking this class. Doing long projects, such as Games and Thesis Things, are far less stressful if they are done ahead of time. Not waiting until the last minute to complete assignments goes a long way in the time- consuming aspects of the class. This is especially important as you begin to get work from other classes. Time management includes having to research and understand how historical events fit into arguments. From there, you also must figure out how to best write in an insightful manner that provides detail. This type of writing can take much time, so for me, it was better to spread it out over multiple days. But truthfully even if you wait until the last minute, you can complete the work on time. It just might not be as beneficial to the learning process. My biggest advice regarding time, is to use it in a way that is most efficient for you, whether that be doing projects the night before or spacing work out. Just do the work to the best of your ability.

By May, you will probably feel unprepared for the AP Test, which is natural considering the uncertainty surrounding it. But do not stress! This class, through all the dedication and commitment that you choose to put in, is impactful and will over- prepare you. As you begin the test, you will realize how much you have learned and will take it with ease. It’s important to remember that the knowledge gained throughout the year will reflect efforts you chose to put in. The work is not meaningless and if you do the best you can consistently, you will be happy with your year and your decision to take this class.

Making the decision to take this class and continuing to pursue it as the year progresses is the most difficult part. APUSH really is not as tough as it is too often depicted. In hindsight, it grew to be one of my favorite classes this year. The work you endure will be time consuming and at times overwhelming but take it as it comes and understand the importance of all of your assignments. This will hopefully result in a successful sophomore year and endeavor at AP US History. Best of Luck.

49. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. To begin with, do not panic. I know walking into this classroom is intimidating, the energy, the intelligence of the classmates around you and the first time you are partaking in a course that is at a higher level. Take a deep breath and realize that everyone else is feeling the exact same way.

Secondly, although this is a rigorous course in the way that the work lines up, you will get through it. One of my main mistakes was overthinking assignments in the sense that although this class is history, the way you structure assignments and choose to put them together are remotely up to you. The goal of this is to help you understand what you are learning better, so write thesis things and notes in a way that will help you above all, not with the goal of impressing Mr Schiavo (even though that is awesome too)

Third, believe in yourself in this class. Personally, I tend to undermine my abilities quite a lot. I knew this class would be difficult but at times I completely didn’t believe I could keep up with my classmates or participate at the level that would impress my teachers, peers and my grades. However do not limit your knowledge and although it may not seem like it you are smarter than you think you are. At the end of this class you will be able to put together time periods in history, and connect them overall in a way that they flow and make sense. Don’t doubt what you are capable of or your ideas and opinions on certain things. You can do the work, and you are smart enough to get through it! I know sometimes it may not seem that way, but it is true.

Lastly, hard work pays off. The bulk of this class is not being exceptionally brilliant at US History, it is doing the work to get yourself to the point where you are exceptionally good at US History. If you do the thesis things, participate in discussions in class, ask questions, reach out and do what is expected you will succeed. At the end of all this looking back on this year, it is crazy to see how much I have grown as a student and person. My work ethic, and drive is completely changed and you will catch yourself mid year having an internal competition wanting to do better and better on assignments.

Overall, do not freak yourself out. You got this! History is something that comes with time and instruction, and as long as you do the hard work it will pay off. At the end of this class you will be able to complete assignments and do things you never even thought you could. That’s the best part, and I am excited you all get to experience this feeling as well. Best of Luck !! ( mod 9 is the best :)

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

The first lesson with this class, and any class in general, is to absolutely not procrastinate. I have learned, especially up until the middle of the year, that sleep is more valuable than the quick satisfaction of a YouTube video or scrolling social media. I hate to admit that to this day I continue to procrastinate (don’t tell my parents, I’m a little too stubborn to admit it), however I am more composed in handling a large workload and have developed a productive work ethic from this class, so I can finish assignments a lot faster than when I first entered. Hopefully you take that lesson to heart faster than I did. So please get sleep, especially to the people who are active in sports. The work may seem light when it is far from the due date, but the pressure of late night grinds get to you, and once you get behind on one assignment it may be hard to get yourself out of a hole you dug yourself into. Trust me, not fun; been there, done that.

Regarding actual class, be ready for in class pressure. I hope you can write fast, because from notes to tests you will be writing a lot in a short amount of time. As I said before, get sleep, it will help you focus on class, which helps you know stuff for homework and do it faster, so on and so forth. Also, speak up, give your opinion, I know I was a little to quite in class (looking at you again sleep deprivation), but it's important to interact, as a large portion of history does deal with different opinions, and this will be important when you reach the big debates.

But most importantly, never give up! The class will get hard, and you might regret “wasting” your time on something you might have not wanted to do to begin with, but it will be worth it when you look back on it. Whether it’s the experience you gain or possibly the money you save in college- you will walk out of the class much more knowledgeable and prepared than before. None of what I said before is meant to discourage you, and I urge anyone to take this class; the benefits heavily outweigh the drawbacks. Best of luck!

From,

Newly contrived professional procrastinator

52.