Words of Wisdom from the 2018-19 AP US History students to the future…

#1 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:

1. Prepare yourself for a wild rollercoaster of a year. This class is easily the hardest class you’ve taken to date, but it also comes with great rewards as well.
2. That being said, try to get your work done as soon as possible; my motto is work now so you can play later. This applies to everything that Mr. Schiavo assigns you: Thesis Thingys, Spirits, readings, multiple choice quizzes, etc. He assigns everything for a reason and all your hard work will pay off when you take the big test in May.
3. Try to find a few reliable people in your class who can send you the notes from class if you miss a day. You never know what may be discussed in class; it could possibly be on the next test.
4. Don’t panic if you don’t finish the first test or don’t do as well as you hoped you would. Take that disappointment and allow it to drive you to do better on the next test. Maybe try writing out possible IDs for the next test but don’t worry about it too much. Success takes time; it’s not an overnight thing.
5. When doing debates, look at the questions that the other side is asking and try to respond to them before the debate, including a few quotes for each question. This allows you to be prepared to answer any question and it is something that I wish I had done.
6. Don’t be afraid to speak during class and to have some fun once in a while. APUSH may sound like a super strict class, but your classmates are all going through the same thing and a little humor can go a long way. Not only that, but Mr. Schiavo always grades you on participation and a 100 as a homework grade could possibly bump your grade up an additional point.
7. If you’re confused on anything, either ask Mr. Schiavo for clarification or go home and watch Crash Course US History. John Green does a really good job of reiterating what Mr. Schiavo is teaching in a short span of time and it may also help to have someone else teaching the same material in a different way.
8. Last but certainly not least, try not to stress. I know, that sounds impossible to do when you’re essentially taking a college course as a high-school sophomore, but please try do follow this piece of advice. Not stressing about certain things makes things seem more attainable and it will save your body.
9. Good luck this year! You can do it!

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

My advice is quite simple: take your time. This applies to all aspects of APUSH. During class, take the time to listen and ask questions instead of scrambling to write every word Mr. Schiavo says down in your notebook. Writing notes in class helps, but make sure you actually understand the material instead of just memorizing it and regurgitating it on the ID tests. This will eventually help you remember everything you’ve learned when it comes time for the AP exam. Taking your time also applies to the assignments given such as thesis things, games, etc. If Mr. Schiavo gives you a week to do an assignment, DO NOT START THE NIGHT BEFORE. Just don’t do it. Do a little bit each night before it is due so you will never be overwhelmed with work. In my own experience, I decided to start my New Deal thesis thing the night I had to submit it online. That day, I got food poisoning and felt way too exhausted to put all of my effort into it. Even though I got a 94, that is beside the point. Life is very unexpected and you never know what’s going to come up that causes you to scramble to finish your thesis thing by 11:59. So, just take my word for it and don’t procrastinate. Taking your time will ultimately benefit you in APUSH and classes you take in the future.

#3 Dear AP United States History student,

As you sit here on the first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. First, the rest of the year is definitely not as hard as the first one or two months. It’ll be hard at first because this is so new, and there is a lot of work. However, it definitely will get easier. You will get used to the amount of work you are given and it won’t take as long as it used to. Next, when assigned Spirits, do them right away! You’ll thank me, because the worst thing is scrambling to get them done instead of studying for your test. Make sure to pay attention in class, and don’t worry so much about taking notes. It’s important you understand what you are learning and ask a bunch of questions when you can. It will help you when test time comes. Lastly, don’t stress! You will get it done, you will make it through the next day even if you’re tired, and it’ll all pay off at the end of the school year. Have fun and good luck!

#4 Dear incoming APUSH student,

As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. You may be sitting here wondering, ‘is it a good idea for me to take this class?’ Well, we all had those thoughts, but if you enjoy history and you’re up for a challenge, it’s best just to stick with it. The first few things you may need to know are... spirits may be painful but they do help, always take notes in class, and definitely **do not** wait until the night before to start an assignment, because I promise you will be up all night. Mr. Schiavo usually gives at least a few days to complete a long assignment, but every second you have to do some research or to work on it is precious. Make sure you stay organized and keep your big book from freshman year, US History l, because eventually it is helpful. Finally, if you want to do well on the AP exam at the end of the year, all you have to do is pay attention in class everyday and do all of the work that is assigned to you. You will be surprised on how much you remember when it comes time to take the test, make sure all of your hard work pays off. Good luck!

#5 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. This class takes energy, late nights, patience, and it’s a significant time commitment. So many times this year I have wanted to drop it, and I felt like it wasn’t worth the time and stress. But over time it’s given me some confidence and when I’m frustrated and tired I remind myself that if I can get through APUSH, I can get through the other classes I want to take. Because I stuck with it I found out that I can handle a lot more work and stress than I thought I could. And even though you’re going to feel like Mr. Schiavo is just giving you so much work for the fun of it, when you get to the AP test you’ll realize that he was truly giving you the tools to succeed on the test. So my advice is to walk into this class knowing that it’s going to be hard. It’s going to be tiring. You’re probably going to find yourself wanting to give up and drop the class. But if you decide to stick with it, you’re going to learn that you’re capable of a lot more than you thought.

#6 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Don’t be scared. People may have warned you that the workload and tests are “impossible”, but trust me, they aren’t. When a game or thesis thing is assigned, for example, don’t leave it for the day it is due. My biggest advice is to do a little bit each night, or even save most of the work for the weekend. I am used to spending hours of each Sunday on different types of work each week, and trust me, if you do it that way, your weeknights will be free of stress from APUSH. Also, don’t be mad at the amount of work. It may seem like a lot but after taking the AP test, I see why Mr. Schiavo does it. Each thesis thing, each game, each DBQ, seems to burn the information into your mind. So when it comes to the AP Test, you will be completely prepared. Regarding tests, the only advice I can give you is to study. You can make it fun, though. Make study guides with your friends and learn the ideas together. Additionally, don’t be scared to open your mouth in AP US History. Not only is participation a grade, but it just helps overall. The whole class is based off of giving information and getting new information back. It might be scary in the beginning, but eventually you’ll get used to this process. If you do this well, you are golden for the whole course. Lastly, just know that APUSH is completely worth it. If you really love history, you will love this class. If you just took APUSH to take an AP, the outcome may be different, but either way you feel like you are a new person at the end of the year. I thought I knew about history while I was a freshman, but I was wrong. Mr. Schiavo was a great teacher and took time on each topic, and slowed down when the students needed to. I now feel confident in much more U.S. History than I ever did before, and this is thanks to the hours of hard work of both myself and Mr.Schiavo in class throughout the year. Overall, I believe it is a great course, and I believe it will really help me in the future.

Don’t drop out! :)

#7 To: Upcoming APUSH classes

As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Remember that you are now taking a college course like class so there will be a heavier work load. Take notes! And lots of it. It will help you in the long run. It will help you when you study for the ID tests and in the end the AP test. Find lot of quotes of the debates, the more the better. And the debates aren’t as bad as they seem. That’s all I have. Good luck and stay awake.

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

Have fun and do your work, all of it. Doing your work in this class will get you a 5 on your exam, it’s as simple as that. You’re going to have to pull all nighters because your not used a college level course, but I can assure u that by the end of this class you will be ready for any difficulty high school throws at you. I have never felt so knowledgeable about as many subjects as I do after taking this class. But it’s only because I payed attention, participated, did all of my work, went out of my way to do things for this class, and stayed positive. The benefits of this class not only show themselves in pure, academic knowledge but also in preparedness for future high level learning. It is my humble recommendation to just try your best this year and manage your time wisely. Also, don’t freak out about work I can speak from experience that it is not worth your time.

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

Don’t feel too intimidated. The class might seem like a lot, especially the workload aspect. “Overwhelming” would be a good way to describe it. That’s how I felt. Overwhelmed. In hindsight, it’s over a lot faster than you would expect. It feels like September was yesterday, and I was sitting in that classroom intimidated. At this moment I’ve already completed my US History AP test. All the ID tests, all-nighters to complete thesis things and ‘games’, and the ‘completion’ of Spirits were worth it. I recommend that you speak up in class and express your opinions. It’s a very discussion based class, but at the same time it’s not the end of the world if you don’t always speak up. In my case, I rarely spoke in class. The important thing to do is pay attention, take good notes, and understand concepts the best you can. Always ask questions and try to get clarification if you’re confused or lost. I also recommend you start your work right when you get it or as soon as possible. The work always seems more difficult before you start it, but once you begin it’s not usually as bad as you expect. Don’t be like me and pull an all-nighter whenever anything is assigned because I didn’t start until the absolute last minute. Overall, pay attention, try your best at everything thrown at you, and work hard. All of your effort will pay off.

#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 could mean one of two things to you at the end of this year: a class that has made you a better student/person despite the stress or a person consumed by the stress and never bothered to look at the importance of it all and just wanted the A. There will be hours upon hours wherein you will look at information on history and you might feel that it’s pointless, or that it’s boring, or that none of this really matters and now you’re just losing sleep for no reason. But I urge you to do something that has really made me love this class and I believe has changed me as a result of this- look at the events you’re examining and relate them to yourself. This is a class that focuses on perspective and change and studies those exact two things over the course of four hundred years. You’ll hear the stories of the difficulties that the Native Americans faced at the hands of an inconsiderate society, the stories of a family destroyed by war, the greed of politicians and businessmen and their effect on the poor and the needy, and the pain of feeling as if you’ll never see progress. What I urge you to do is look at situations like these and think to yourself, I’ve seen this before. You may have felt the pain of thinking that things will never change and that you’ll be stuck in the place or predicament you are in, you may feel that those who you admire or have power ignore you and find you to be needful, you may have treated people who have helped you with contempt and as a result forced them away, or blocked someone out because you couldn't accept them as a person. You see, by minimizing large events and bringing them down to the very essence of their situation, you’ll find the same mistakes, flaws, strengths, and virtues that live within each human being on earth. If you cannot just look at history, and not just live it, but also make it apart of you and to see your own human frailties within the situation- this class may just be the best class you’ve ever taken.

Concerning the work and stress, everyone deals with that in their own way and I’m of the belief that everyone must figure that out on their own. That is one of the tests that occur in this class as well, yet if you find this class to be interesting, and you do exactly what I’ve written, that work and stress won’t be as bad because you have a reason for doing it other than to get a good grade. Do try and plan and organize though, that was a part of the reason why I was always up so late for this class since I'd always do it last minute. Sometimes you might not be able to control that, but when that happens I just suggest that you plow through and look for what is on the other side(which is hopefully a break.) But if you work as hard as possible, and listen to all that Mr. Schiavo has to say, and actually do your work- by the end of this year, you will have succeeded in this class. Stay strong and don’t worry, because this year will be over before you even know it and you’ll say to yourself, “It was worth it.”

#11 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom… Okay so first off welcome to a ~wild~ year. My first piece of advice going into APUSH is find your purpose for the class. Truly think about it to yourself, why am I taking this class. This class prepares you for future classes, college, and the rest of your life. This class fills you with US knowledge (you will probably never need), but if that’s what you’re into, okay. This class will boost your GPA if that’s what you’re doing it for. This class could save you a nice chunk of money in college. Or this course could be a lot of fun if you learn how to make the most of it. I strongly recommend marking what your goal is before going in the class, or you will lose your sanity throughout the class. I DON'T recommend shooting for everything, just focus on the reason why you took the class and the rest will flow with it.

    Competition- Nextly, just remember, don’t compare yourself to others in the class (or in life ever). Everyone has their own way of making it through APUSH so just figure out what works best for you and stick with it. There are some kids that space out projects (aka games or thesis things) over a week and do a little every night. Then there are the kiddos (me) who literally just go ham for an all nighter and get it done in one sitting. There are some kids who come out with 100’s by using perfect detail, precise wording, in an intricately crafted 5 pages. Then there are some (me again) who ramble and lose their footing in a 16 page project who still manage to get the same grade. Just try to do your best in whatever you do and don’t stress about what everyone else does. \*\*\*speaking from experience\*\*\* You may kill at projects and literally get so low of a grade on multiple choice that you are saved by the lowest tier of Schiavos grading scale. (If you fail things you can still get an A.) Stop stressing and just try and congratulate yourself for doing the work.

    Speaking of Schiavo-  listen closely. Not only does he speak INCREDIBLY quietly, but he also does it quickly, and with a lot you can learn from and giggle at if you key into his ~odd~ sense of humor. Notes are your best friend! You will not be able to scratch down every word he says so just try to scribble what you think is important.

    Managing Stress- APUSH is only as stressful as you make it. To quote the great Schiavo “It’s all a game.” If you are a procrastinator (95% of the class) try to make all nighters fun; text some friends, get some coffee, and bake some cookies at 3 am when you need a break! Schiavo will make you stressed so sometimes just sit back in giggle, because he will expect a lot from you so look forward to a new assignment as soon as you turn in the one you just finished. It is okay to lose a little sanity at some points, so when you don't have anything to do, enjoy the break and catch up on sleep.

    Time Management-  Yes, you can do it. This course may have been made out to be death but most people make it so chill. APUSH does not mean you have to give anything up in your life, but it will teach you to time manage. Personally I took 2 other AP’s, lived at the boathouse and regattas for Crew and managed a job. If you do a time intensive sport, bus rides will become APUSH crunch time and your average sleep for night will go down. Pick and choose what is important for you! You do not need to throw out your social life, but a fair warning is you may choose to spend your weekends getting done a game or thesis thing or crunching spirits instead of dying throughout the week. Moral to the story is, APUSH is not as bad as people make it out to be, you just need to find your groove.

Lastly- Take some time to appreciate Schiavos Wilco posters. Speak as much as you can in the class, doing this you will learn the most. Try to answer, if your wrong Schiavo may even giggle. Appreciate how Schiavo matches his Patagonia vests to his outfits! Don't fall asleep, if you try to listen Schiavo has a lot to offer that is not even related to APUSH. It gets easier, then harder, then easier!  This class will make you an incredible writer, all English assignments will be light work. And regarding the saying less is more, that's wrong. More is more, less is less. Always do be more. Even when you think you covered the main goals, add more. Do not sit outside of Schiavos room and cry over stress. He will hear you. He will call you out. And he will laugh. (love ya Schiavo) And finally, HAVE FUN!

#12 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 demanding, but it is worth it in the end. After every project, every ID test, every DBQ, you will feel accomplished. Start everything early. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE! I know so many people who did and they had to pull a project together in one night! Don’t do it. Be proactive and start early. Also, create a group chat for your class, they are fun and so helpful in many ways. And pay attention in class as much as possible, even if you don’t have time to write something down, listen because you might just remember something from it. Enjoy the class as much as you can and try to stay relaxed but focused. Good luck!

#13 Dear future students,

This class will challenge you beyond your measures.  You will work hard, learn a tremendous amount, be frustrated at times and others times delighted with your achievement.

This class will prepare you like no other for college and beyond. It will totally expand your mind and teach various was to complete a task.

You will write, you will read, you will study and then you will start it all over again.  With all of that you will build bonds with your peers while working in teams that will carry your through this challenging but so worth it endeavor.

Study hard and don’t procrastinate!

#14 As you sit here on the first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. First off, don’t come into this class thinking that procrastinating will be a good idea (even though half the time I did it). Procrastinating has cost me many all nighters where I had to stay up reading spirits, doing projects, and many more. Also be prepared to have a stressful year of your life because the workload will be a lot. Even though the work may be a lot, Schiavo will overly prepare you for the AP exam at the end and once you take that test you’ll feel like it was nothing. Mr. Schiavo is a great person to talk to if you get loss during class and or don’t understand, not only that but he is super good at responding back to your emails. I recommending having some buddies to chat about apush will be immensely helpful because there are those days where you just have too much work and you’ll want help; not saying this so you can copy off answers but so you can have less of a work load (at least this worked for me). Once you finish taking your ap test and writing to the students that will be taking this class afterwards, just remind yourself how much you accomplished, achieved, and learned. Hopefully you will feel the same about this class with me, that APUSH was worth it (maybe) and open up future paths that you never think of happening.

#15 As you sit here on your first day of AP US history, I offer you these words of wisdom. This is a very difficult class to do alone. One of the number one things that helped me succeed was to make study guides for each unit with my friends. We would all share a Google doc and use our notes to write all the possible ID’s we could think of that might be on the test. Group study sessions also never hurt! And of course always remember, ask tons of questions!!!!! This class is not that difficult if you put the work and time in!!! Good luck!

#16 Pardon my late message though I had to think about the quote since there is so much to say. My quote is...

"Do not procrastinate. Procrastination only leads to anxiety, stress, and fear, and as the famous president Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said, 'The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself'. Take his words to heart and do your work one time, it just easier that way... trust me!"

#17 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, i would like to offer you these words of wisdom. There will definitely be more work than you are used to, and it will take time for you to get comfortable with it. All of the work is there for you to better understand what you are learning and to prepare you for the AP test in May. Some of the assignments will be challenging and take some time, so it is a good idea to start ahead of time and not do everything last minute. Also make sure you are doing the spirits. They may seem boring and confusing, but they do help. With the spirits you are becoming familiar with primary source documents and answering questions about them, and this will help a lot with the multiple choice questions. Apush also helps it become easier to write a good essay and you will become more comfortable with that throughout the year. Don’t get too stressed, because before you know it your year of apush will be over. Good luck!!

#18 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. This class is not a nightmare (unless you let it be) it is a learning experience, and not just for history, but for all the other AP classes you might take. Over time, you will learn better time management skills. Do. Not. Procrastinate. Not putting things off will save you a whole lot of stress and time that could be spent sleeping. As long as you manage your time well, you won’t have to pull a single all-nighter. Sometimes the hardest part about an assignment is starting, but once you buckle down and get it done you will be thankful you did it in the end. Sleep is important right before a test, staying up past a certain time is not healthy and will only make you more stressed. Working hard will help you in the long run, so make sure you do your spirits! Class will be a lot more fun when you have information to contribute.  No matter how hard it is, always stay focused, whether it be in class, completing your games and spirits, or stressing out on a test. Never forget that you’re taking this course for a reason: to learn. Just because this class is hard, that doesn’t mean it can’t be enjoyable. It will all pay off in the end--the feeling of being done with the AP test in May (it seems far away but is closer than you think) will be fantastic as long as you know you did your best, something Mr. Schiavo will help you do. Every assignment you have will be for a reason, none of it is ever busy work. The games may seem painful (and they can be) but ultimately they are there to help you educate yourself and improve your grade. You will not regret taking this class, but you will regret it if you give up and drop it. Just relax and realize that you’ve got this. Good luck!

#19 As you sit here on the first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these following words of advice. APUSH is going to be your first time experiencing a class that takes true commitment because of the workload. Even if you don’t plan on a career in history, this class teaches you skills you’ll need for the rest of your life.

1. **Motivation!** Most of the time, you won’t feel like doing you APUSH work, and it will overwhelm you, and that’s normal. You’re going to teach yourself how to get things done on your own time. I think initially people want to drop APUSH because they don’t want to figure themselves out. You’re going to figure out how you manage your time, how you motivate yourself, and how you handle your stress. It’s better to figure it out in APUSH then when your paying thousands in college when you get harder classes then APUSH. I strongly suggest you don’t drop, because at one point or another, you’ll have realize that you need to understand how approach big workloads, and how you can improve yourself. Motivations to do the work, and figuring yourself out is the biggest challenge in APUSH.
2. **Time Management!** I know we’re all busy and we see the workload we’re getting from APUSH and it’s a lot. To be completely honest, you’ll have to figure this out for yourself based on your schedule but it’s going to help you out in the long run. It will help break some lazy habits, and you’ll be more productive. Or you could just cram everything until the night before and stay up till 4 am, but I mean if that’s what works for you, then so be it.
3. **Hard Work!** It will seem impossible to get all the work done at times, but trust me, you can do it. You can push yourself beyond what you think you’re capable of. As long as you’re showing Schiavo that you’re putting in the work - you participate, do all you Spirits, games, thesis things, readings, and papers - your grade will be fine. Remember that AP classes are also more weighted, so putting in the work and getting a good grade in APUSH will help your GPA tons. This sounds cheesy, but just put your mind to it.
4. **Games!** Games are projects that will save your grade. If your grade is bad in APUSH then the games will definitely save you, so do not blow them off. Prioritize games. Putting work into the games/thesis thingys also pays off because those are the things you remember on the AP Exam.
5. **Enjoy It!** You definitely might not enjoy all the homework you’ll be getting, but you’ll realize that APUSH class is unlike the dynamic of any other history class you’ve ever had. Class time is very discussion based, so participate! You’ll get so much more out of the class that way. You might even think the history is interesting. Make the most of everything because there really isn’t any other class like APUSH, and you might actually have a fun time.

So in the end, APUSH will be one of the most challenging but enjoyable classes you’ve had in high school. You’ll discover new things about yourself, and you’ll be a better student at the end of it. Make the most of it, even if it’s miserable at times. Don’t drop it because it’s hard, because quite frankly, APUSH is a harsh reality of the fact that you’ll get workloads like this in college. You’ll get treated like college students too, so step up to challenge, and learn from it now. Work hard and everything will be fine. Good luck!

#20 Dear Future Student,

You're about to be filled with more regret than you could ever imagine. Just remember the deadline to drop this class will quickly approach once the school year has started, I would recommend dropping it before the year starts. If you happen to not drop this class, I send my deepest condolences. I have no actual advice to give because I'm sure many people warned you not to take this class and you got yourself into this mess. Good luck!

#21 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. History is not as hard as people say it is as long as you do the work. In the beginning of the year, it might seem like you are overwhelmed, but you get used to it. In my opinion, the hardest part about this class is the time management. I play sports all year and play an instrument, so I was worried in the beginning of the year about whether or not I would be able to handle the work. As the year went on, I got better at balancing my time and never had any problems where I did not have enough time. Make sure to read all of the spirits and answer the questions. Although I did procrastinate and do most of the work on the last day, I never had to stay up all night. The class seemed the worst at the beginning of the year because I was not used to the amount of work, but eventually it becomes easier. Always take notes in class and pay attention because anything you talk about could be on the ID tests. You will definitely be prepared in May for the AP test as long as you participated in class and listen to Mr. Schiavo. The games and thesis thingys might seem hard when you start, but they become fun and prepare you for the DBQs and essays you will have to write. The most important thing is to not drop the class because Mr. Schiavo made it the most educational class I have ever taken, both about history and life skills.

#22 Dear reader,

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

Do not be discouraged when taken this class if you think history is boring.  You don’t have to like history.  The entire class is just memorization.  That being said,  it is up to you on how you would like your AP US History experience to go.  You can go in to class and sit back on your phone,  or you can be active in class conversation and get something out of class.  There is more than who, what and where.  There is why and how.  Why was this American hero compelled to do this, or how did this person succeed in passing this act?  There is much more to history than dates and names, but it all depends on if you want to learn for the sake of your grade, or if you truly want to learn.

I promise, come May, if you have taken good notes and discussed in class,  there is absolutely no reason why you should not get a five on the AP Test.  The only way to fly through this class is very easy and it is to learn how to make US History interesting and fun.

#23 Dear APUSH Student,

As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Well for starters this is a hard class. There is no way around it so know that it is very difficult at times. With that being said take the work seriously because if you do everything Mr. Schiavo gives you it makes the test much easier at the end of the year. For instance, make sure you talk in class because it gets you involved with the information and it’s easier to remember it in the long run. Also make sure to take notes in class so that you can remember it later as the year goes on and it helps when studying for tests. Speaking of tests, my advice on tests would be to write study guides for ID tests and even maybe write out a few of the possible IDs to help you remember. Another key part of surviving this class would be time management. I would 100% use a planner to organize all your work because it can pile up. For your own sake do not, I repeat, do not wait until the last minute to do projects because you will stay up all night (I speak from experience and would not recommend). Try to space your work out so that it isn’t all the night before. I would also suggest form a group chat for your class because it makes it a lot easier when you are confused about something. If you do all the work throughout the year it makes the end much easier because the actual test seem so easy. My final piece of advice would be to not stress over the test when it comes up because you know a lot more information than you think you do at the end of the year. I went into the test stress free and it made the whole day much easier because I wasn’t anxious so all the information just came to me (yes I know that sounds cheesy but trust me). Overall, enjoy the class because you learn so much and it can be fun if you let it. With that I say, good luck!

#24 Dear Future APUSH students,

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 as hard as you make it, and it’s the one class where your grade truly shows how much work you put in.  If there is one trick to this class, I would say it would be to always have a plan for a game, thesis thing, or even ID test before you do it.  You won’t know what is on an ID test until you walk into Schiavo’s room to take it, but try to plan out how much time you will spend on each part.  Also, don’t wait until the last night to study or do an assignment. Not only will you get more sleep and most likely a better grade, but you can also laugh at your friends who tried to pull an all nighter to finish the assignment.  When I walked into my first day of APUSH, I thought it would be my worst grade by far for the year, but as I sit here and type this letter now, I realize if you work hard, but also smart and efficiently, you will do very well in this class.

#25 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 freak yourself out the first week and drop the class (like I almost did). Although there is a huge workload with tons of spirits, thesis thingys, DBQs, ID tests, etc. it will all be worth it. I am very grateful I took APUSH this year because it truly prepares you for college classes and teaches you a new way of thinking. Mr. Schiavo is a very intelligent teacher, not only with his extensive knowledge of objective information, but what he can develop with it. As the year goes on, this class will feel like a lot, but my biggest piece of advice is to really pay attention in class and take good notes. Listening to how Mr.Schiavo explains history is the best way to prepare for the AP test, and writing detailed notes is the best way to retain that information. He will introduce concepts such as “safeguards for conservatism” and “education v.s. legislation” that can be related to numerous topics and will impress the AP test graders. If you pay attention in class and learn the information throughout the year, you will be completely ready for the AP test in the spring. Finally, just relax and remember that all of your classmates are in the same situation as you. Good luck and have a great year!!

#26 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom...this year will probably be the hardest year of history of your life. I’m not trying to scare you, I’m just being honest. But at the end of the year, you will be have learned so much. Not only will you have learned how to write a solid essay in fifteen minutes and read and analyze a primary source document from the 1700's, but you will also learn life skills. If you are someone who does other extracurricular activities, especially those such as swim, crew, or drama club, in which you get home very late, learning how to manage your time well is a necessity in this class. I, for one, am the prime example of a procrastinator, but I have learned to start my work earlier and work more diligently because of this class. At many points during this year, you will feel extremely overwhelmed, but trust me: you *will* get through it. And you will be more responsible, more knowledgeable, and a better student because of it. As you begin this year, here is some advice for surviving APUSH…

1. Don’t underestimate the Spirits. If you don’t know what that means, I am referring to *The American Spirit*, a book that is essentially a collection of primary source documents. Throughout the year, you will have to read and analyze these documents and answer questions on them. Much of your class time will be spent discussing the Spirits, so even though they might not be “checked” every day, if you do not at least read and take notes, you will probably be very lost during class. (They are very time consuming, and if you miss a few every once in a while you’re not going to fail the class, but… you’re going to be lost during class discussions, so I would recommend doing the Spirits whenever you can, since some primary source documents that you analyze might \*hint hint\* show up on your AP test in May, and you’ll be glad you took the effort to do them).
2. Speaking of the AP test, don’t stress about it! I was *terrified* walking into the testing room before my test, but I honestly felt so prepared once I saw the test material. While many people try to cram before the test, I think it’s important to realize that all of the work that you put in this entire year is more than enough to prepare you for the exam. My classmates this year agreed that as long as they put their best effort into every assignment they turned in, paid attention in class, and took notes, they felt very prepared for the AP exam.
3. Don’t be afraid of “failing.” Getting back a multiple choice test and seeing a “20” in the “percent correct” box (yep, this happened to me), may be traumatizing. But this is a really difficult class! The tests, especially the multiple choice ones, seem daunting because of the low percentage of people who score high. But realize that it’s ok to get a low grade on your multiple choice tests, as long as you learn from what you did wrong. Plus, don’t think that because you got a 30 on a multiple choice test that you’re going to get a F for the year. There will be plenty of take-home assignments as opportunities to raise your grade, and people generally score high on these assignments--sometimes you can even get above a 100!
4. Participate in class! There are going to be times during the class discussion when you feel like you don’t belong because people are making really good points that you never thought of, but don’t underestimate yourself. Raise your hand, even if you might be wrong! You can’t be afraid of making a mistake because it makes you a better person when you learn from what you did wrong. If you feel like everyone is smarter than you, know that this is all in your head. I know that I definitely felt this way during class in the beginning of the year, but it is important to overcome your insecurities and try to be a part of the discussion. Everyone can have different ideas and ways of thinking about the same thing, but remember that there isn’t only one right answer. Collaboration is a key part of learning, and what you have to say could really help someone else who’s struggling. Also, participating in class will keep you engaged in the conversation, and you’re less likely to lose focus!
5. Start your assignments early! Time management is a crucial life skill that you need to excel in this class. Speaking from experience, the work in this class is going to take you a *very* long time to complete, whether it’s a “thesis thing,” (research assignment) a “game” (big project) or your nightly Spirits homework. Even though it might be tempting to spend your weekend free time watching YouTube or Netflix, first work on a little bit on your APUSH homework. Although you may not want to start your thesis thing a week before it is due, it is better to work on it for half an hour each day than to stay up until 4:30 the night before it’s due. (And yes, I am speaking from experience because I stayed up past four working on the thesis things every time because I only started it two days before it was due!) As long as you stay ahead of your work and begin your assignments *long before* they are due, you will thank yourself for it.

I know this was a really long letter, but if you’re still reading, I just want to remind you that if you feel nervous or scared for the year to come, don’t worry. Every APUSH student has felt the way you’re feeling, you’re not alone. It takes a lot of courage to even sign up for this class! Even though it will be exhausting, your hard work will pay off in the end. Going forward, I wish you the best of luck, and just know that you got this!

#27 As you sit here on your first day of AP US history, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. *Why are you taking this class? How will it help you in your future*? If you are interested in college credits for history classes, I again ask why would you be taking American history classes in college? College credits sounded nice to me until half way through the year I realized that I didn’t want to be a history teacher, so any possible credits would be useless. ***(Student makes incorrect point. The opposite is the reality – if you are thinking of being a history teacher – you may end up wanting to take classes that are similar to this AP class in college. But if your college accepts AP credits, it does not matter what class they are in – they simply count as one less class that you have to take in college…)*** Make sure this class is something you absolutely want to do; if you have any second thoughts, you can absolutely drop to honors. This class will involve a lot of work that you do not want to do, and do not understand the significance of in terms of preparation for the AP test and general learning. If you’re still interested in this course, I will now offer some simple pieces of advice.**1**. Do all take-home work with a friend, from multiple choice tests and spirits, to thesis things and games. You can split up the research and writing and make it an overall less painstaking experience. Remember that your classmates are your best resource.**2**. Nothing you write should be longer than 6 pages. I have achieved many A’s with this page count and fewer.**3**. Don’t waste your sophomore year doing apush work. Do what you can. Join the Marching Band. Don’t stay up late or skip social events. As long as you do *most* of your work you will be fine.**4**. Buy the AP test prep book and use it for everything. On half of the assignments you can get away with using that as your only source. **5**. Any assignment can be completed in one evening and you can still end up with a good night’s rest. If that seems impossible, don’t write as much. **6**.The AP test is very easy, don’t worry about it.**7**. Never write a closing paragraph. Just copy your opening.

#28 “As you sit here on your first day of AP history, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom.” Coming into history my first day of school, I was so nervous but I soon realized the only thing that was making me nervous was myself. The class is hard but if you are a dedicated and hardworking student then you will succeed. Mr. Schiavo is one of those teachers that wants to hear his students’ opinions so make sure you speak up in class and let people hear what you have to offer. If I’m being honest, there was a lot of work but if you manage your time wisely and focus, you should get everything done. Every piece of work given is to help you become a better student and grow as a person. From that first day of school, I have learned so much as a student that I would have never known if I did not choose to take this class. Just remember as you sit in class stressing about your next assignment realize that everything is meant to help you and prepare you for what is to come even outside of the class. My essay writing skills and time management skills have improved drastically and helped me with my other classes. Spirits also really help so make sure you do them even if they do seem like a lot of work. They help you with primary and secondary sources which are also seen on multiple choice questions and on DBQs. The test is just a game and what you do the whole year will determine if you win. Just make sure you enjoy the class because before you know it, it will be over. Good luck!

#29 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom… Everyone loves to hype up this class. By now you’ve probably heard stuff like, “there is *so* much work” or, “I wanted to *die*,” but these people are being overdramatic and they know it. This class is by no means a walk in the park, but it really isn’t that bad. I was talking to my mom and after hearing my description of the overhyped nature of the class, she related it to childbirth. Everyone likes to talk about how awful and excruciating it is, but women have been doing it since forever, and multiple times at that. People like to complain.

*The workload is big and scary.* It is indeed lots of work, but if you do not procrastinate it will be super straightforward and stress-free. Realistically, you will procrastinate on every thesis thing, game, and debate. You will have a few 12:00 AM work sessions, maybe a 3:00 AM one, or maybe you’ll pull an allnighter. (you wouldn’t be the first) This class will be the vast majority of your homework for the whole year, but you’ll get used to the load and in the end, you’ll be better for it. It's like running for sport. I’m no amazing athlete whatsoever, but I run every day and for a while, so after a few months I can run 11 miles straight and be ready for more. Just about anyone with a few months of dedication could get to where I am or even better.

*Mr. Schiavo.* Mr. Schiavo is a pretty groovy guy. He makes some good jokes, is very friendly, and is a great lecturer. Everyone is different, but I never got bored listening to Mr. Schiavo. I have fallen asleep, but that was due to sleep deprivation rather than the monotony of class. Most classes I was eager to listen to what he had to say, or what nuance he wanted to introduce to us. He’s a great guy.

*AH! AP tests!* The whole class is really just a series of simulation AP tests and things that will directly prepare you for the AP test. If you do what you are supposed to do and refresh those ideas before test day, you will be golden. Don’t sweat it (that much)

*P.S. Don’t be that person who cries about the class to everyone. Most everyone can handle it with hard work you’re not special.*

#30 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Firstly, time management is important. While it is completely possible to do all the projects he assigns in one night (trust me I would know), it is quite frankly a terrible experience. I wish I was smart enough to space the work out over the time allotted so I would not have to experience the last minute grind I became very accustomed to. Another thing is the spirits he assigns. Yes, they can get boring and are lengthy and take a lot of time, but they do help. On the few occasions, I did decide to do the work the class discussions made a lot more sense and I could understand what Mr. Schiavo was talking about. This class might seem like just a bunch of busy work but all the games and spirits and other things Mr. Schiavo makes you do will pay off on the AP test. You might be sitting there one night at 3 am working on a thesis thing asking yourself if taking this class was really worth it like I once was. Yes, all this work is worth it. I myself am not too knowledgeable in history and have never considered it one of my strong suits but Mr. Schiavo really did prepare my classmates and I so exceptionally well for the test. While I hated it at the time, I am now thankful for all the preparation we have been given through his various assignments. Ok, I'm done kissing Mr. Schiavo's behind now. Anyways, what really helped me get through this class was having a small group of friends that I can work on stuff with. Even with individual assignments, having someone else to talk to and bounce ideas off of is a huge help and will get higher grades for everyone. The more brains the merrier. Oh, and another thing, do not be THAT person who is APUSH this and APUSH that. Stuff like this and complaining about this class is annoying to everyone who is and isn't in apush. This is how you lose friends or get bullied. Contrary to popular belief, if you take APUSH, it does not also mean you are a member of the high society club too. Please don't act like you are better than honors history kids. They made fun of me because I have a few friends who open their mouths and just APUSH APUSH APUSH. Enough about warranted bullying, the debates were definitely not one of my best moments. Come over prepared to the debates because what you think is enough probably isn't. Speak with confidence so people won't target you with a rebuttal. Most importantly, have fun with the debates. It always felt very tense and stressful and overall just an unenjoyable experience. Finally, don't get too stressed over the AP test or this class. The AP test is a lot easier than you will think and there is no need to worry about it all year long. Take the class one assignment at a time or one day at a time. Don't overwhelm yourself with trying to take everything on at once. Just take it slow and spread the work out.  PS Mr. Schiavo has a very quiet and calm voice and he has lulled me to sleep a few times so watch out for that too.

#31 As you sit here on your first day of AP  US History, i would like to offer you these words of wisdom. This class is gonna be work. You’re going to always have an assignment hanging around the next corner, and at one point or another, you will question your sanity at 4 AM doing an assignment. That being said, I sincerely hope no one reading this drops this class. I was probably Mr. Schiavo's worst student. I started alright, and by the fourth marking period not one assignment was turned in on time. This letter was due last night, and I’m typing it the next morning in the library. That being said, I honestly loved his class. I genuinely learned so much, and if I was the student Mr. Schiavo expected, I’d be a better one. I feel confident about how I did on the AP exam, but if I failed it, I know that’s a reflection of me as a student, not him as a teacher, because he *really* prepared us. I don’t wanna keep repeating myself, so if I can sum everything I want to say into one sentence, it would be this: Although it’s going to be hard, I implore you to just do the work, pay attention in class, and turn in assignments on time, because it’ll make all the difference.

#32 Dear Future APUSH Student,  
  
    If you choose to take this class I guarantee that it will become one of your favorites, because out of my classes that I have taken this year it is definitely one of my top three. The workload may seem like a lot at some points and you might feel like you’re drowning, but if you don’t procrastinate until the last second and sometimes do the work in a group to be able to bounce your ideas off each other I promise it’s not that bad. Another piece of advice is to always take notes in class the things that are said are very helpful to deeper your understanding to contribute to conversation in class. Overall this class was a very great experience for my sophomore year, and helped me with my essay writing which is a skill I’ll use throughout the rest of highschool and college. I strongly recommend taking this class I know I will use many of the skills that I discovered throughout the rest of my highschool career, and you will also have a lot of fun.

#33 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would be remiss if not to share, with you, these words of wisdom.  This course is challenging. It will make you look at history in different ways, from different perspectives. It is awesome and so much fun and a nerd convention and I personally love it and hope you will too! The work is meaningful and really helps with tests so be sure to do it.  Furthermore, do not wait until 10pm the night before a project is due to start it. You will be up all night and it is not fun the next morning. Good luck you'll figure it out soon enough!

#34 “**As you sit here on your first of AP History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom.”**

Do the work. It’s simple… all you have to do is just do the work. Get the work, sit down, do the work. Don’t put it off, don’t procrastinate, don’t go crawling to your friends from prior years for help to the projects… just do the work. Cutting corners never got anyone anywhere significant. Winston Churchill very wisely said, “If you’re going through hell, keep going.” The first week of class is going to be overwhelming, there is no getting around it. In order to succeed throughout the year, it is imperative to put your head down and work. This class will certainly not be a breeze, however, it is extremely conquerable.

This class will be a turning point in your student career no doubt about it. One of two outcomes may ensue. (1) You walk into B-5 on the first day of school, get through the first class, and you tell yourself it’s going to be “too hard”, “too much work”, “going to take too much time”, “You’re so busy you can’t”. And the next day you’re going to schedule an appointment with your guidance counselor to get out of AP US History. You’re going to quit. And it’s the only easy way out of any situation… to quit. Quitting is the ultimate submission to failure. Quitting anything because of its difficulty or complication shows nothing but weakness. It doesn’t matter what world anyone lives in, you must never quit! On the other side of the spectrum (2), You walk into B-5 on the first day of school, get through the first class, tell yourself your going to do whatever it takes, and go straight home to get that first thesis thing done by the next morning at 8 a.m. It is this option which must be done to have success in, not only AP US History but in all future classes and jobs and anything which requires work.

If you take anything from my suggestion, “Do the work!” No matter the circumstances and no matter the time sacrifice you must make. There should be no negotiation when trying to find time for success. Success must be consistently worked for without deviation. Don’t take that day off, don’t take that one small reading assignment off… there is no such thing as a worthless piece of work in this class, so just do it.

#35 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Don't stress. Yes, the class is hard. The tests are hard. The games are hard. But honestly, if you just try, you'll be fine. It's more work than difficulty. Be honest with yourself and with Mr. Schiavo and you'll do fine. Have a schedule. Ask questions. Do what you can. Do what's important first. Don't let this class consume your life, but don't treat it like it's just any other class. APUSH is really a surreal experience. It's a fulfilling experience, and it's fulfilling in a way that nothing else it.. I never once enjoyed anything I did for this class WHILE I did it, but looking back, it was always worth it. That feeling I had everytime I hit "Submit," everytime I got to bring up something in class that no one else knew, everytime I circled a question on that AP test knowing full well that I only remembered it because of Mr. Schiavo's stupid inside joke about it. Those feelings are ones that are worth it, knowing that you didn't just an ace a test, but that you learned while you did it.

There's no real advice needed. Be you. Do what you do best. I never looked at that AP test prep book from US 1, not once. Some people have the pages stapled to their binders. It's all about how you learn best, and you'll figure that out as you go. It's a lot of work at first, and it's probably the same lot of work at the end, but it feels like a lot less because you've learned and improved so much more.

In conclusion: Take your time, think a lot, and be cool -- You'll be fine.

#36 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 class seems like it will be very difficult, and it might even feel impossible, but something you will learn throughout this year is that it though it *is* difficult, it is definitely not impossible. As I did, you will probably come to realize that you are more capable than you think you are. Work as hard as you can in this class, prove to yourself that you can do what you set your mind to, but don’t beat yourself up for what you can’t do. In my experience, you just have to trust yourself. Some other tips I would give is to find someone to work with, hunker down in a Starbucks or your houses and bang out your thesis things together. Also, as much as you want to compare yourself to the other students in your class, whether it’s what you get on an I.D. test, or how many pages your thesis thing is, resist that instinct. Your learning is not about them or whether they get a better grade than you. It is about learning from your own mistakes and growing. If you think that your thesis thing is not as good as someone else’s because theirs was a couple of pages longer than yours, then you are thinking about it in completely the wrong way. A thesis thing is not about length, it is about strength. Find and include evidence that supports your thesis, and do not feel pressured to add more than you need to.

    If you are a hard-working, dedicated student, then I believe that you can make it through APUSH. As scary as it seems at the beginning, once you walk out of the room after the AP exam, it will all feel worth it. You will have learned all that you needed to know, and you will have been as prepared as you possibly could have been. This year will be difficult, but you can do it. Pay attention, work hard, believe in yourself, and you will make it through.

#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 is gonna be tough for sure, but there's many ways to keep it as easy and stress free as possible. Whenever Mr. Schiavo assigns any kind of project, try to start that same night, but maybe only work on it for 30 minutes a night. It will help you a ton in the long run, and improve your work a lot as well. The classes themselves will also be harder to learn in if you don’t get enough sleep, as without sleep you’re gonna feel really tired often in that class, and maybe even start to fall asleep (Mr. Schiavo tends to have a really soothing voice). Then, you won’t be able to take notes or participate, which will both hurt your grade and hurt how much you learn. You’ll be much more prepared for tests as long as you stay awake and stay focused, and make sure to write as much as possible, as it helps out a lot when you’re trying to comprehend the key ideas. Finally, when studying for any test, quizlets will be your best way to learn; make one yourself or with some friends, and try to help out anyone else by sending them the quizlet so they can study the terms themselves. After all, Mr. Schiavo will encourage this class teamwork to help each other out, so don’t feel like you should hide your sources. As long as you try your best to follow these guidelines, the class will be a lot more enjoyable and easy in the long run, and you’ll be sure to pass your AP test and do great in the class.

Good luck on your APUSH journey!

#38 As you sit here on your first day of APUSH, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom."

When I was in your position last year as an incoming sophomore, personally I was extremely stressed about this class. I had heard from my upperclassmen friends who previously took the class that it was a ton of work and a rigorous course. As the year progressed the amount of stress tied along with this class was hard to manage i'll admit, and sometimes my friends and I would joke about dropping the class. If you're on the fence about whether to take APUSH or not, I highly suggest you do it. This class taught me much more then just history, I learned how to handle and manage an extreme amount of work, along with how to time manage. This class will strength your work ethic and will push you to become the type of student you might have never thought you could become. I wouldn't trade my experience with this class for anything, and I'm so proud to look back and see how much I have evolved as a student from this class. To whom ever this may concern, I hope one day you will be able to say the same. I suggest you take my advice and decide to enroll in this class, you won't regret it. The last thing I will say in this paragraph is that imperialism is American (you'll understand one day).

Best of luck next year!

#39 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. DONT LEAVE THESIS THINGIES, GAMES, OR DEBATES FOR THE NIGHT BEFORE. Thats the main thing. Other than that, i would advise to do the spirits, as that always helps with information gaining and talking in class so that you dont feel awkward not saying anything. Talk with people, and share ideas too, so that you can get different perspectives on periods in history. Finally, dont stress about the class too much. Do the work and listen to the teacher and you will be fine.

#40 Dear Student,

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 very difficult and time consuming, and if you are not prepared to commit yourself to this class you shouldn’t be here. With that said, if you are willing then, seriously, this class will make you a better student. You might not learn anything new about history, it’s the same subject matter that we’ve been taught year after year. Yet this class will significantly increase how well you can write and comprehend things. You will not only be able to write faster, but your work will be better and more articulate, and that is one of the most important skills you can have moving forward through high school. This class has clearly improved my writing in my other classes. This class, additionally, makes you feel proud about yourself once you’ve finished it. It is a very tough class, and often makes you question your decisions. However, I know that once you have completed the course you will feel better about yourself, knowing that you have passed one of the hardest classes in the school. If you are willing to put time and effort into the work you are asked to do, I promise that it will all be worth it.

#41 Dear future APUSH Student,

As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of insight and, maybe, wisdom. APUSH will likely be the most demanding, work-intensive class you will take in your high school career, and for this reason, it will also be the most rewarding. APUSH is a true test of your work capacity; it is probably the closest you will get to a college experience before actually attending college. This class teaches you not only how to work well, but also to work efficiently. Over the course of one year, you will have transformed into a better writer, researcher, and learner, which should make yourself proud of the student you have become.

As for the work, do it, and do it in a timely manner. When you take this class you will feel like there is no time to catch a break, because there is always something to be working on. This is true; your break will come in the middle of May. There are points in the year when you will feel no motivation to spend hours on assignments or even complete them at all, but I advise you to remember all assignments in this class only add to how much better you will feel come test day. The thesis things, spirits, games, and debates are grueling but ultimately worth the time commitment, because they lead to interesting class discussions and are resources vital to your success in the class and understanding of history. The spirits especially are key to a better understanding of primary source documents, a major component of the AP test itself. You will feel worse not having anything to contribute in class than coming into school one morning a little sleepy.

As for class itself, contribute as much as possible. You are much more likely to retain the knowledge if you have both read and spoken about it. Also, sharing ideas with your peers is a cool experience; APUSH takes history to a whole new level. In past classes, you have learned *what* happened, but in APUSH, you discuss *why* it happened and *how* these events molded the United States. Instead of a bunch of different events strung together, history will seem like one long, detailed, and often repetitive story.

While it may not seem this way considering the work load, APUSH is an enjoyable class. You will bond with your classmates on late nights finishing work, grow fond of Mr. Schiavo’s lingo (words and phrases like “kiddies,” “fired up about,” “babble about,” “gals” and more), listen to your first Wilco song (if you do not know what I am talking about, look at one of the thirty posters in Mr. Schiavo’s room), and surprise yourself about how much work you can handle and in how little time you can complete it. APUSH is a testing, sometimes bumpy journey, but your destination will ultimately make it worth the ride. Now buckle up, rely upon your grit, hold onto to your sanity and don’t forget to enjoy!

                                    Best of luck, A student once in your shoes

#42 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Don’t be so scared! This class is a lot of work, but it goes by really quickly, and it’s definitely worth it for all that you learn! The skills you learn from this class far outweigh any stress. This class is also a lot of fun! Night classes and picnics might not seem like a lot of fun, but they’ll be some of your favorite parts of the year. Definitely take all of the notes you can! It makes it so much easier when you’re studying later. Try not to worry too much about essays on ID tests, no matter how scary they seem! Working hard on the homework is one of the most important parts of this class. You’ll definitely get tired of putting so much effort in later in the year, but as long as you put the work in, you’ll learn just as much from homework as you do from class. The most important thing to remember is to take it seriously, but not too seriously. Don’t get so caught up in the work that you’re stressed all of the time. Focus on the good parts! As the year goes on, you’ll surprise yourself with how much you’ve learned and how much better you are at the work. By the time the AP test comes around, you’ll feel really well prepared, and definitely be glad you’ve taken the class!

#43 “As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom.” The class helped me a lot overall. I feel I became a better writer and learned that it is possible to write a good essay in a short amount of time. I gained a better work ethic and learned the importance of time management. I learned so much and even though I have taken U.S. history in the past there was still so much more to learn that I didn’t know. I learned how to analyze primary sources and find good, reliable research. Mr. Schiavo did a great job at teaching us and made learning history interesting. It might seem like a lot of work at times, but there is a reason for it all and it is to benefit you.

#44 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom: you’re not in over your head. At the beginning of the year, it may seem as though you bit off more than you could chew by taking this class, but you can do it. As a sophomore in September being in Mr. Schiavo’s class only because of the peer pressure my friends exerted onto me drowning out my (once) hatred for history, I was extremely nervous and felt as though I was inadequate compared to everyone else who seemed to know everything about history right from the start (spoiler: they didn’t). I was contemplating dropping the class, but I talked myself out of it and decided to bite the bullet. After a few regretful all nighters from games or thesis things that I had pushed off until the last minute, I began to fall into a normal work schedule and APUSH just felt like any other class come November. I’m so glad I didn’t drop the class as it soon became one of my favorite classes because of the discussions and Mr. Schiavo’s dry sense of humor. It felt like like swimming in the ocean compared to the puddle called freshman year at first, but soon you’ll learn to swim. At the end of the year, you’ll be proud of how much you’ve grown both as a historian and as a student. You got this!

#45 Quote me on this. "Say goodbye to your life... goodbye to your sleep schedule...... goodbye to your friends......... goodbye to your gpa............ bye gpa."

#46 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Firstly and most importantly, don’t procrastinate. This could be the worst class to procrastinate in, so spread out your work and don’t be up till 3 am the day before a project is due. Secondly, get plenty of sleep. At times Mr. Schiavo can have a soothing voice, and when you are tired you can start to drift off. Lastly, during the debates have plenty off quotes available to you. The worst feeling in this class is when you have only one quote to answer a question and then someone uses it before you so you have to scramble brain a quote find a somewhat relevant quote.

Good Luck

#47 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Don’t feel discouraged. Don’t drop out of the class without actually attempting the work. There are times where it might feel like you should just give up, however just give your best effort and keep going. You will be able to revise your mistakes as the year progresses. Have some confidence with the work you put out and don’t allow the work to frustrate you. The workload can seem like a lot but if you manage to keep at it and try to avoid procrastinating, the work will become more manageable. Try to participate in class as well. If you feel like you know the answer, say something. Make an attempt to contribute to discussions and don’t feel afraid to ask questions or offer what you believe may possibly be an answer to a question. In the end, don’t let the test scare you. Having a positive mindset and reflecting over what you’ve done over the year will benefit you as you are going into it. Instead of cramming for the test by re-reading a year’s worth of notes, just remember that what you have been doing all year was to prepare you for the test.

#48 As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Do not, and I repeat, do not procrastinate! Please take my advice and use your time as wisely as possible, especially if you’re doing any sports that demand a lot of attention. With my mod being in the second half of the day, I would often miss class because of sports. Even missing one class can put you in a hole because of the speed at which Mr Schiavo teaches.  This class is unlike any other class you have ever taken before. APUSH will push you both mentally and physically as you will definitely have some late nights. At times I felt like I couldn’t do it, and I just wanted to quit and go to sleep. These were the times when I pushed through and got better as the year went on. The value that APUSH brings is much more than what grades you get and how you perform on your AP test, it is an experience that I believe has prepared me for the rest of my life. This class was truly an experience unlike any other and I’m so glad that I took the opportunity.

#49 As you sit here on your first day of AP U.S. History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Throughout this school year, you will have fun going through all of U.S. history, but you will certainly face the hardships of work. Some mistakes I made as a student in this class were procrastination and settling for mediocre work that I’ve done. While there are times where you will be highly stressed, getting your workload out of the way sooner will make you feel better and will make you do better throughout the year. Also, make sure you do your best. All of the assignments you will have in this class are geared to make you better prepared for the AP exam, so if you give it your all, it will pay off in the end. With all that being said, I wish you the best of luck and hope you have a fun year.