**Words of Wisdom from the AP Kiddies of 2016-17 to the students of 2017-18**

**The below is a collection of thoughts offered by this year’s AP students, after the AP test in May, to next year’s students, in response to the following ‘prompt’…**

**“As you sit here on your first day of AP US history, we offer you these words of wisdom…”**

1. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. After an ID or multiple choice test, keep going over your notes. Every week or two, go over ALL your notes. It will keep the information in your head so you won’t have to cram in the last week. Pay attention to Mr. Schiavo when you circle up. He’ll tell you exactly what he wants from you during your tests. I can tell you from personal experience, spending 30 hours on the second debate is a mistake. Other than that, you’re on your own. Have fun!
2. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words

of wisdom; believe the statement that, “a people without the knowledge of their past history,origin,and culture is like a tree without roots.” (Garvey) And if anything, make sure you have fun with the projects and opportunities you are presented with.

1. As you may know, this class is not an easy one to take. You will face a lot of work throughout the year so be prepared for it. You will have several thesis things, DBQs, and American Spirit readings to do throughout the year. My advice to you, though, is try your best on each of these assignments. Doing proper research and spending time on the assignments will not only help you on that assignment but it will also help you succeed on the tests in that unit and ultimately the AP test. Also, though the American Spirit readings may seem oddly specific, they really help contribute to the understanding of the time period as a whole. I definitely recommend spending time and understanding them. In addition, nothing in this class can be done in one night. Most of the assignments have multiple parts, and it is easiest to do throughout the week. Another good tip for this class is to write down a bunch of notes. Mr. Schiavo will always offer an interesting perspective on certain historical topics that will really help your understanding… so write it down! Lastly, though this class may seem a little hard at first, do not drop out of it. You will learn a lot about American history in the class and you will feel so accomplished after the AP test is over.
2. To Future APUSH students who are not so good at speaking in front of other people and are intimidated by the fact that there's a participation grade, I suggest you try and raise your hand before anyone else does because it gives you confidence for a little while and you don't have much time to overthink it either. This will be especially helpful during the in-class debate because there's definitely going to be a kid with the same information as you and will try to verbally throw that all up before someone else can take credit for that information. Don't wait and overthink because that will seriously screw you over. You will blank out and when you finally get the guts to raise your hand, nothing will come out of your mouth for a time (although shorter than you think), and you'll be very regretful.
3. Dear AP US History Newbie,

As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Here are five helpful tips to ensure both survival and success in this challenging course…

1. **Always go the extra mile**. When given a project, reading, essay, or any assignment for that matter, compete it to the best of your ability. Do not be lazy and brush over the parts that seem unimportant. Everything is important! Even if it may seem boring, tedious, or completely and painstakingly useless, do it. Always take the extra step. Write the extra paragraph. Do the extra research. Spend the extra time. Your efforts will not go unrecognized, and I can assure you that you will never regret giving more.
2. **Stay on top of your work**, Even though it may seem daunting - all those readings to be read, all those questions to be answered, all those essays to be written - you need to stay on top of your work. Stay organized. Do not procrastinate. It may be easier said than done, but it is not impossible. Be sure to write down all the work that is to be done, and get started early! Break up assignments into parts and get a little done each day. Your stress levels and sleep schedule will thank me later.
3. **Speak up**. Do not be afraid to use your voice. Speak up in class and participate as often as you can. Even if your answers may be incorrect or irrelevant, it is important that you are showcasing effort. Mr. Schiavo will appreciate that. Be the person who starts a discussion and gets the whole class involved. Ask a question when you are confused. You could even tell a history related joke or two. Also, do not be afraid to speak to Mr. Schiavo when necessary. He is a kind, intelligent, and understanding person, and he is always there to help.
4. **Take your learning beyond the classroom**. We can only learn so much in the short eight months spent in B-05. Because of that, many details will go left unsaid. That is why it is important for you to be proactive with your learning and do more on your own. When you are not in class, research and learn more through articles, books, magazines, videos, etc. Not only will you have a better grasp on the material, but you may also be able to offer new information to the Schiavo-dominated class discussions. Give him a rest - he babbles enough. Now you have the grand opportunity to bring some historical factoids to the table (or, poorly constructed circle of desks).
5. **Review, review, review**. The AP exam in May is obviously the end all, be all of this course. It is what most of you are probably here for. Therefore, I am sure you want to do well on it. The exam covers TONS of information, and it may seem nerve-wracking. How are you going to memorize all of this information?! The key here is to review regularly. Review your notes before class, at the end of class, at home, on the bus, when you are eating breakfast, when you are walking your dog, whenever you get the chance. Those five minutes per day spent reading through your notes could translate to five extra point on a test!

Overall, the best advice I can give to you is to just relax. You are smart and belong in this course. You will succeed.

Best wishes and good luck!

The only junior in APUSH last year

1. History, although at times can be bland, is essential for every person. This class will prepare you with knowledge and times you will never forget. Even though there are tasks that will make you bored, angry, or even on the verge of tears, it’s worth it to stay determined. I have learned so much from this class, more than this course aims to teach. Not only did it teach me the centuries of the United States story, but it also taught me to be more effective and efficient as a person. It’s easy to give up, but it takes a will to persevere. Don’t give up ☺
2. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom:
   * Procrastination= a bad idea.

With the amount of work you get in this course, it is not the best idea to push it off until Sunday at 10PM (keep in mind that it's due at 11:59PM). Trust me, we've al done it but do NOT recommend it. Even if you think you work well under pressure, you won't work well when you have only gotten 4 hours of sleep. So please do yourself a favor and do NOT procrastinate.

* + Spirits are your new BFF.

They're long (and sometimes boring), I get it. When it comes time for the exam, you WILL thank me for this one. You will be assigned Spirit readings from September to May and will go over them in class. Take them seriously, because A) you need to know the authors of them (they're important people); and B) you never know when you'll be asked to hand them in. Do them well; they are not busywork.

* + Mistakes are good.

I know what you're thinking: "Why are you telling me that mistakes are good? One mistake equals failure." Well, I know it's hard to believe, but I thought the exact same thing when I got that advise in September. I thought one little mistake would mean absolute failure, but if I have learned one thing this year in APUSH, it's that the people who said mistakes are good, are correct (to an extent). They help you learn and tell you what to improve on. If I hadn't made the mistakes I had made in September, I certainly would not have improved as much as I have. Mistakes are not monsters, they are there to learn from and improve on. From the bottom of the ladder, the only way you can go is up.

* + Unless you're Ariel after Ursula took her voice, speak up and participate.

Participation is key in APUSH. Not only is it 10% of your quarter grade, but it's a learning tool. Asking questions does not make you weak (trust me, I thought that, too), it makes you stronger. By speaking up, asking questions, and answering questions, you will gain more knowledge than you ever thought you would. Nobody will make fun of you if you answer wrong. As long as you start the year by being vocal and participating in class, you will be 110% fine by May.

* + Details.

Thats all that's necessary to say. Just add as many details as humanly possible, when appropriate. In thesis things, games, essays, IDs, DBQs, and whatever else you're assigned to do, add details galore. It'll help your brain and your grade.

* + There's no "I" in "Team."

Unless it's a solo project, work together. You will have multiple opportunities to work with friends, but make sure you're all working as a team. If not, your grade will suffer on that project. Choose hard working partners and do the work with them. Just as long as you work well together and will work together, you'll be fine.

Don't worry about this year. You WILL be OK. It will be a ton of long nights typing at the computer or reading or prepping for a debate, but it's worth it. Trust me, I'm writing this days after the AP Exam and I KNOW that all the hard work I put in was for a reason. In the words of Mr. Schiavo, "It's all just a game." Good luck and enjoy!

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

1- You might think that taking a lot of notes will help you, but the real way to be successful is to just listen to Mr. Schiavo

2- Don't think it's okay to sit there and not talk. You must talk, if you don't talk then the room will be silent and awkward, lol if you think Mr. Schiavo is just gonna keep talking about the current subject, he'll just move on to the next subject.

3- Never procrastinate, never ever ever ever ever ever everrrrrr procrastinate, you will be screwed if you do!!!

4- Watch Jocz Production on youtube, he's great for apush videos.

5- Mr. Schiavo will give you a lot of work (yes a lot, and by a lot, I mean a lot!), you might think it's pointless but do the work! Always do the work! The work Mr. Schiavo gives you is very important and will prepare you for a 5 on the APUSH test in May.

6- The first few months of apush are the hardest. Don't drop the class, don't be that person.

7- Always do the thesis things and spirits that Mr. Schiavo gives you! They are also important if you wanna get a 5.

8- When Mr Schiavo gives you some reading to do for homework, do it!!!!!

9- Don't question Mr. Schiavo's socks. Don't.

10- Respect the Wilco posters!!!!

11- Did I mention to always do the work and never procrastinate???

12- Have fun kiddies. ”

1. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. I know you probably have heard numerous horror stories from previous students and their parents, yes PARENTS that almost deterred you from taking this course. Well buckle up! You will spend countless hours of researching, reading, writing, and studying outside the classroom to reach your ultimate goal… passing the AP exam in May! Don’t think of this course as just an exam; enjoy the journey along the way. Whether you are fond of history or not, I guarantee you along the way you will learn many interesting historical facts. Mr. Schiavo will not only provide you with the tools needed to pass the exam in May, but will teach you other life lessons. As long as you do not procrastinate, manage your time wisely, and have an open mind, you will survive and succeed in this class. Be sure to take advantage of all the extra sessions with Mr. Schiavo during and after school, whether they are required or not. These sessions will be very vital to your test preparation. Most students are worried about asking questions for the fear that they will appear stupid to their peers or their teachers. Always remember that Mr. Schiavo is not as intimidating as he appears. He is more than willing to clarify any questions you may have. Just remember when you start to complain to your parents, friends, and teachers… YOU signed up for this course. Enjoy the journey back in time with Mr. Schiavo as your guide! Best of luck!
2. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. It’s not as bad as it sounds. I remember coming in feeling petrified, only hearing how stressful and hard this class is. I was extremely worried I would not have been able to balance crew (a demanding activity), other hard classes, work and my personal life. Take it from me, it is possible to do it all. Don’t get me wrong, some days I was stressed beyond belief, but I made it through. Time management is everything. It might not sound like a lot of work, but trust me, it is. Give yourself at least 3 days for any game, at least a week for the debates. If it seems overwhelming, just do a little everyday. I cannot stress it enough: TIME TIME TIME. Yes, it is a challenging course, but I already see the changes this class made for the better. I almost dropped this class in the summer, but I am so happy I didn’t. As long as you have a will, there is a way to pass this class. Don’t worry, you got this!
3. Although the class may seem overwhelming at first, do not give up right away. Everything that is discussed in class and given for homework are done to prepare you for the AP Exam in May. Doing your work will not hurt you but will benefit you in the end. Always do your best because you will never get more than what you put in. After all your hard work, you will feel accomplished by the end of the year. Learn from your mistakes, and improve yourself and your skills. During discussions, you can have your own interpretation and voice out your opinions and ideas. Try not to procrastinate, manage your time wisely, and come to class prepared to avoid being stressed. Also, when studying for ID tests, be sure to study with a group so that more ideas and topics are put in. I know that this may be your first AP class, but you are more capable than you believe you are, so challenge yourself. Have a great year and good luck! You can do it!
4. Put in the time. As vague and obvious this may seem --this is an AP class after all--but once you really get into the work, you will understand that this class is not one you can procrastinate in. As soon as you have the time, use it. You’ll need it. As dreadful as it may seem (and that it actually is), a couple of hours a night might not cut it. It is possible that six hours of studying in a stress-induced night before an ID test might be what it takes to FINALLY get you that A. This course covers a LOT of information, and a good portion of it, unfortunately, you will have to find for yourself. In total, the amount of time you spend researching may add up to be more than the amount of time you spend in class. The AP exam is in early May, meaning you only have seven months to learn, re-learn, and comprehend the entirety of American history.

So why take the course? You ask. What's there to gain but a headache and a few stress- fueled acne breakouts?

The experience. The invaluable experience.

In the beginning, you may feel overwhelmed. You most likely will for the rest of the year. And if spring rolls around and you DON’T feel overwhelmed, you may be ignoring my previous advice.

You may be thinking, how do I work hard and enjoy the experience?

And as dreadful as it may seem (and that it actually is), the most effective way to getting out of this course without a head of premature grey hairs is to ENJOY working. Enjoy pushing yourself. Learn to embrace the long nights, struggling to keep your eyes open as you continuously stare at the clock, too busy ticking at double its normal speed to notice your assignment, barely half-done, glaring ominously back at you as you frantically click at the tired tabs of your browser to find the information that always seems just slightly out of your grasp. Learn to embrace the heaviness of your lack of sleep, as you shuffle down the hallways the next morning, running only on the half of a bottle of water you managed to drink in class, having woken up too late to even grab a small breakfast before running out the door. But most of all, learn to embrace the immense pride you feel, the feeling that maybe, just maybe, the dark circles under your eyes are worth it, when you finally get that illusive 10, only to discover, the very next week, that you had put in just enough work to have you leaving that AP testing room... with a smile on your face.

1. Dear Future Student,

“As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom.” To succeed in this class, you have to be willing to do all that is necessary. You have to work hard and study a lot in order to do very well. Unlike other classes, you cannot wing this class and expect to do well. You have to do your homework and do it very thoroughly because without it, it cannot pass the tests in class without knowing the terms of it.

In addition, do not procrastinate to do anything. If you do, your grade and your performance on the tests will reflect it. Games and projects take longer than they actually appear, and it takes a while to edit them to make it the best it can be. Do not wait until the day before to start these things. Chances are it will take longer to finish than you expected, and it will not be as good as you want it to be.

In addition, in class pay attention. Mr. Schiavo says a lot of things that helps you with the assessments, and if you happen to wander off, on tests you might not do as well as you should because you missed important information. Take notes as much as possible, and make sure you understand why history happened as it happened, not just factual information, This information helps with tests and helps you do better.

Lastly, relax. The first marking period will be a bit difficult, but once you get used to the cycle, it is not that difficult to pass the class. The exam is nearly the exact same things you do in class and it is not too difficult. You do not need to freak out, and with relaxation, you can pass the class and the exam.

1. This was the worst class I have ever experienced in my entire life. Brace yourself. Maybe it’s because I’m a math and science person, maybe it’s because I like sleep, or maybe it’s because I like to do things with my life other than read primary sources for hours on end, the world may never know. But one thing is for sure, APUSH was not for me.

What I can say for the class is that it dramatically improved my reading and writing skills(possibly more than any english class I’ve ever taken.) At the beginning of the year the thought of writing a full coherent essay in 30 minutes terrified me, but by the end of the year it was like second nature. The same thing goes for the readings: While they were hard at first, they became easier with practice.

Some friendly suggestions:

1. Make a google doc with a close group of trusted friends *(who can pull their weight)* to review before tests. Fill it with literally any possible ID’s you can think of and try to collectively define them and find their significance. This helps with both ID’s and essay questions.
2. Review videos on youtube Saved. My. life. They are super helpful before tests and at any time that you may be confused. Some good accounts are JocZ productions and Keith Hughes (crash course it ok too but not my #1)
3. Watching videos at 1.25 or 1.5 speed saves time and makes you crave the sweet release of death™ just a little less than you would have had you waited through the whole 20 minute review video.
4. Use a spiral notebook-- a bound book is hard to take notes in and will run out of room.
5. Pen glides faster than pencil on paper and will save you time during tests. Don’t worry about mistakes, you can just cross them out. It will also prepare you for the AP test in May.
6. This is not an easy A. You need to put in the work in order to see results.
7. Actually do the spirits, they end up being worth it.

That’s all I have for you. Looking back, I don’t know if I can tell you that taking APUSH was worth it. Sure, I might be better prepared for college, but at what cost? I was miserable. All year. The amount of times I wanted to drop the class is more than I can count on two hands, two feet, and every Wilco poster in B5... but I pulled through. I hope you can too. Ultimately, the way you will choose to approach this class is completely up to you, but you will only get out of it what you choose to put in. In the end, it’s all just a game.

1. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. The biggest thing that I have learned this year is time management. You can not wait until the last minute to start your “game.” If you do this, you will be pulling all nighters, and that would not be very fun the next day. Break up your work ahead of time, because you get a lot of notice in advance for when the games are due. For the thesis things, research everything first, have an outline, and then start typing it, as you will be all over the place if you don’t plan it out. Always take notes when Mr. Schiavo is talking because when he says important information, odds are you will not remember it. Note taking is very helpful when it comes to taking the ID Tests because you will have all the topics, and most likely definitions of the topics written in your notebook to make studying easier. The DBQ’s are hard to study for, but you always need to know what you are learning to be successful with them. The documents on the DBQ’s for the most part should be helpful when answering the questions. When it comes to the in class multiple choice tests, they are very hard, but just really try to think them through. Later on in the school year we would be able to do the multiple choice quizzes at home. This class really taught me so much, how to study, how to manage time, and how to take proper notes. Hopefully you will like this class as much as I did. Goodluck! Work Hard and Study Hard are the only ways to be successful!
2. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom: don't let your initial intimidation hinder your success. I came in with this developed complex in my head that taking the class was going to be a giant and unconquerable change. While you are required to do quite a bit of work, it is not impossible seeing that you manage your time and remain on top of things. While many of the thesis things are not due until midnight and it is easy to procrastinate, you will get so much more out of the assignment if you take your time and aren't rushing to complete it late at night. Every assignment you receive in this class serves a purpose and you will see the work and commitment throughout the year pay of in May. For both the spirit readings and thesis things, take your time and do them right. It may seem tedious in the moment, but you will be better able to recount information during the AP test and your reading skills will dramatically improve. In regards to the ID-essay tests, you will eventually get the hang of it. I remember that for the first test we had, I spent the entire night before creating a forty page document with my friends in attempts to study. I found that is much more useful to review your answers to the spirit readings, and go back over the learning goals discussed in class. It may seem absurd to have to write an essay within 20 minutes, but I could not be more grateful for having developed this skill prior to the A.P. test. I barely had finished my first paragraph when the bell rang on the first testing day and when the A.P. test rolled around in May, I had no timing issues whatsoever. Just remember that you are going to survive and by avoiding procrastination and cutting corners, you will be fully prepared to take the test in May. Good luck !
3. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I offer you these words of wisdom:

You probably already know this, but APUSH is a pretty stressful class. It’s definitely demanding, but in the end, you won’t regret taking it. You probably will when you’re having a breakdown at 2:30 AM while rushing to finish a game, but once it’s over, you will feel amazing. Even though you most likely will, try not to start a game or really any assignment the day before its due. It’ll save you a lot of stress and tears. I would also prepare to look at history differently than how you did before. You won’t only be learning facts, but you will also be learning different viewpoints. I would definitely encourage you to come up with your own opinions. We focused on how history is really subjective, so it’s good to form your own opinions, and question why certain things happened, and the different views that people of those times had on it. It becomes a lot more interesting when you have your own opinions on whatever you’re learning, so I guess it almost makes up for the constant stress that you will go through throughout the school year. Also, don’t complain about how much work you have to do for this class, on top of sports and assignments for other classes. Come together with your friends and collectively cry over it, but also remember, you signed up for it, so don’t be annoying about it. Overall, this class is really exhausting, and I don’t think there really is any way to actually prepare yourself, but if you put in the effort, you’ll do really well. Good luck!!!

1. Hello new APUSHES,

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

wisdom. First, make sure that you read your spirits ahead of time and get the questions finished

early, because if you wait, it is hard to finish them in one night. Secondly, you should get the AP

review book (“ Cracking the AP U.S. History Exam,” the Princeton Review) early and do the

practice quizzes. Thirdly, It helps to do quizlets and ProPROF quizzes to prepare for the test.

Finally, put a lot of time in your projects because they help to bring up your grades. Good luck,

you will enjoy this class. It is a lot of work, but you learn a great deal.

1. First off, paying attention in class is probably the most important thing to do. While it may be a bit boring to hear Mr. Schiavo speak for a full hour each day, especially if you don't like history, that's how you're going to get most of your information.

Secondly, don't skimp out on the work he gives you. The second best way to get your information this year is through the work he gives whether it's a bunch of spirits, a packet, or a simple paper. They're to help you with information maybe not fully explained in class, or new information in general.

Third, if you miss a day, get the notes from somebody else. A lot of the time he's not going to have time to go over everything everyone else learned last class. Every single day there's so much information to be gone over, sometimes whole time periods are gone through in a day.

Fourth, make sure that you have dedicated people in each of the class. Class schedules can be pretty iffy so some classes may know something beforehand that you don't. Be sure to have people who are willing and able to inform you on anything you need to know.

Fifth, make sure that you have “group-worthy” people in your class and in other classes. In this class you're going to do a good number of projects and if you don't have people you can work with well, it's going to be a lot more work for you.

Sixth, speaking of projects, you should reallllllly not procrastinate on them. I procrastinated on every single project (not even a joke.) I would wait until the night before and pull an all-nighter every single time. Doing that either gives you a pretty good grade or a less than decent grade if you're good at it. However, sleep deprivation sets in and that's definitely not worth it.

Seven, specifically for debates, get books. When you find the quotes doesn't really matter, I myself found all my quotes the night before, the morning of, and during the debate. However, if you don't have the quotes to use, then that's a problem. Books are chock full of both primary and secondary sources you can use for quotes and such.

Eighth, about quotes, get a lot of them. Don't look at fifteen quotes being a good amount, a good number of those quotes are going to be used by someone else. You want a ton of quotes as extra because you're better safe than quoteless.

Ninth, also for debates, DON’T BE AFRAID TO GO FIRST. In these sorts of projects, you need to go first. Now if you don't understand the question then let someone else take the fall for you where you then can make an even better response to help yourself. If it's not a question that you don't understand then go first. Use up all the quotes you can and then you won't have to worry about going. This can be a double edged sword though, if you feel more comfortable taking time to formulate a response then go ahead. Just remember that what your teammates say matter.

Tenth, when tests and quizzes come around, be sure you know the material. Most of the grades are going to be either test grades or quiz grades and they usually always have writing involved. Messing up once isn't going to kill your grade, but you need to know specifics about the material in the chapter because that's what you need for a Document Based Question (DBQ), Short Answer Question, a Free Response Question (FRQ) or for IDs.

Eleventh, remember that you are not alone in APUSH. Most of the people are trying to cram for the tests as well (if you aren't then good for you). Try to communicate with others about pooling all of your information together so that if you've forgotten something, someone else brings it up.

Twelfth, don't be extremely sensitive with Schiavo’s sense of humor. If he says something that's supposed to be taken as a joke, then take it as a joke. He's not trying to hurt anyone’s feelings or anything, he's just trying to bring cheer to his class.

Thirteenth, have fun the class. You're only in AP US History once, unless you get held back, then… twice.

Finally, my fourteenth point is to not stress. Related with the thirteenth point, you need to remember that getting a B is not the end of the world. While you may strive for an A, and that's great, your life isn't over because of a B. If you're only worried about your grade at the end of the day, it's going to be a miserable year, and nobody wants to be miserable.

Those were my own Fourteen Points to remember for APUSH, hope you take them and use them for your own journey through APUSH.

1. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. There may be times of regret for joining the class when looking at the time required for success. Things may be frustrating at times. Remember, it is all worth it in the end. The time-restricted tests, the memorizing, the note taking, and the debates may seem annoying and wastes of time sometimes, but the AP test can cover anything, and Mr. Schiavo uses these things to prepare students. They are efficient ways to practice, and so putting in as much time as possible is highly recommended. Constantly research and ask questions. Take note of everything unless told not to do so. Even if you never look at your notes again, using your memory is easier when writing down notes than trying to remember what the teacher said. The AP test may seem like a monster as you sit at your desk, in a classroom circle, in September. By the time May arrives, it will turn out to be a midget. The bark is worse than the bite. Good luck and have fun.
2. Firstly, do not procrastinate on any type of work Mr. Schiavo hands out. Try to separate the work evenly because you will be less stressed out and your time-managements skills will improve. Secondly, there is a significant amount of work. However, the spirits, reading passages, and games help better understand each time period, and they definitely help for the AP exams. Finally, if you are ever having trouble, look at Mr. Schiavo’s learning goals. They are very beneficial, and it is a great way to study for all of the tests. Have fun!
3. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. First off, I was told to write that, I don't really speak that way. Now that that's out of the way, some statements. Make sure to bring a jacket to class or something, it's cold in the classroom. Also, participate. The way the course works, it requires both attention and participation for maximum reward. Don't be afraid to get a question wrong (unless it's on a test/quiz, then be very afraid) because it allows class discussion to focus on what you, and probably others, aren't getting. Also, don't drop the class. It seems intimidating at first, but persevere. The workload, although it remains basically the same, will feel like it lightens throughout the year as you learn to do things faster and faster. The writing ability will serve you well in other classes and college. Good luck!

As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. You have nothing to worry about, you would not have signed up for this class if you could not handle the work that is part of this class. You may have heard that this class is really hard and you might have heard that Mr. Schiavo is a mean teacher who gives a lot of work, but that’s not true. This class is hard, but it should be because it is an AP Course. In addition, Mr. Schiavo is one of the best teachers you are going to have in your four years at Mainland. While there is a lot of stuff that he has to teach and not a lot of time to teach it, he makes sure that he completely prepares you for the AP test in May. He does everything in his power to make sure that you know everything from the 1600’s all the way up to the 1990’s. And sometimes that might mean you have to come in during lunch or at night, but go to them because it is all worth it in the end. Plus when you are in class and Mr. Schiavo is talking, make sure you are taking good notes. Good notes are your keys to getting good grades in AP Courses and all courses for a matter of fact. In addition, if you look at your notes and you don’t understand make sure you do more research on it. When you are in APUSH, do as much research as you can because that is when you can really analyze history.

Make sure you do as much as you can do participate in class. The only way that you can fully understand history is by talking about it and getting into discussions about it. Don’t be afraid to talk in class because you know what you are talking about when you are doing a class discussion about a certain time period. You would not be in APUSH if you did not know what you were talking about. The best students in APUSH are those that are willing to share their research and work. In addition, the more you and your class talk the more notes you get to take so you are more informed on a certain time period.

With your work, make sure you don’t procrastinate and set your work aside until 8 PM of the night it is due online. Trust me, I did that once or twice early in the year and the result was not good. When Mr. Schiavo assigns you work to do at home he gives you plenty of time to get your work done well before it is due. So, when he assigns something make sure you do it early so you do not save it for the night that it is due online. When you do that, you work is also better and you put more effort into it. Make sure you spend a lot of quality time doing your spirits because you will feel much more informed after doing them.

Lastly, when preparing for a game or a debate, make sure you do a ton of research, In addition, when doing a debate make sure you get as many quotes as possible. If you do all of these things, you will succeed in APUSH and you will breeze through the AP test in May. Don’t worry because Mr. Schiavo will have you completely prepared to take the AP Test. And just remember, as Mr. Schiavo says, “It’s just all a game.”. Good luck this year kiddies, and see you after the AP Test in May!!!

1. The first thing I have to say is that this class is not entirely bad as it seems. At the beginning it was definitely overwhelming but I found that it felt easier to get through as the year progressed. You'll probably cry or consider dropping at some point - don't drop. I considered dropping around the first couple months but I'm glad I didn't. Taking this class is a life experience and helps improve your work overall. There will be times you will feel extremely mentally exhausted or times you'll be up in the late hours of the night pushing to finish your work. You will be able to get through it and will feel relieved in the end. AP classes come with a lot of work, so time management is key. Do not procrastinate, especially to the night before sometime is due. There's nothing like staying up late doing work, especially if you're taking more than one AP. The debates are also not as scary as they seem. As someone who is pretty quiet and doesn't like speaking up too much in class, when the first debate came up I was terrified and didn't know how I would make it through. In the end I turned out completely fine when the debate started. There's a lot to this class but you'll survive. Mr. Schiavo is a good teacher and this is a good class. Good luck!
2. ***As 2017 APUSH (AP US History) students, one of our assignments was to participate in a debate surrounding Andrew Jackson. You may have to do this one, too. At first, the structure of the debate confused us; we spent a solid 15 minutes, at least, in the beginning of several class periods leading up to the debate asking the same, tired questions, seeking the same, tired advice, to get the same tired, answers. The king of such tired answers, and likely the best, most all-encompassing response, was, at the time, in our wild hunger for a complete forecast of the debate that was to come, the most meaningless to us: “You will understand when you do it.”***

***That is the case for the entire class. If you are scanning these words of wisdom for a sign to drop out, or a sign that it is worth it, or a barometer for how much it will really change your life, the only thing I can promise you is that you will not find one here; you, an individual with a different threshold for stress, different standards, and a different manifestation of intelligence than the individuals writing these personal and subjective letters, know nothing about the class until you try. No amount of “don't procrastinate” coming from a complete stranger can teach you the value of starting assignments early until you fail to send a paper to Mr. Schiavo by the 11:59 cut off because you began writing the thing at 7 that night. If I tell you that you, who can barely finish one essay in an hour, will be able to complete five IDs and an essay in less than 50 minutes, you will laugh in my face until you, sitting in class one day, finish with time to spare. Saying that you will realize that you are capable of so much more than you thought you were will sound like simple melodrama, and the claim that you will evolve into a strong, confident young adult may just be the words of a student too lofty, too psychological, for the common teen.***

***You will, invariably, ignore and forget this pointless advice; it is what we do with pointless information, so we can save room in our brains for the more important things, like if imperialism conforms to American ideals or if Andrew Jackson overstepped his constitutional authority. But, pointlessly, I will say it, nonetheless: rugged individualism is not just an American ideal that is a product of early frontier-living, according to Frederick Jackson Turner, but an ideal of the APUSH student, and you will learn so much more by trying - by getting out what you put in and pushing boundaries you never thought you could push - than by waiting around for an answer that you can never truly obtain.***

***So, just do it. Dust off the ol’ Chasing the Red White and Blue. Start writing about the American idea. Don't take it from me, but you might just learn something.***

1. 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 wisdom. This

class is not something to be afraid of. You may not think this now, but each of you are capable of succeeding in this class. You just have to learn from your mistakes in the beginning of the year, because it will be rocky. Once you get past the first few tests and projects you will improve dramatically, I promise. If you are thinking to yourself now, how badly your grade is going to be at the end of the first marking period it probably won’t even be that bad. Mr. Schiavo designs projects for the end of each marking period to boost your grade up, but you still shouldn’t take those projects lightly. All in all if you try your best and commit as much enough time and effort as you can, you will succeed. Of course, there will be extremely late nights and perhaps even nights you won’t sleep at all, but that is just going to prepare you for the future because it doesn’t get easier. Most people here the rumors about the workload of this class and do not take it. They are missing out. The workload is everything and more from what you have heard I will admit, but it's not impossible. Also it is so worth it. At the end of the year you will be so confident and so prepared, not only on the AP test but any other situation you need the information you’ve learned this year. Yes this is a history class, but you learn so much more.

Mr.Schiavo will teach you how to think and interpret instead of memorizing facts and events. He will encourage you to challenge historians opinions, and back it up with information you’ve learned. This class makes you a better student, and if you ask me I will tell everyone I know to take this class if they want to become a better student. Sincerely, An APUSH Alumni

26.“As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom.” Well hello there. You probably wondering how I ended up in this situation, yeah me too. But here I am giving some advice for you, so sit back and relax for awhile till however long this is. The 1st thing if you don’t know APUSH actually stands for AP United States History, I know, shocking. It took me a month to understand, I’m slow. You will be in good hands, Mr. Schiavo is the best teacher, he will make you do such work that sometimes makes you question your existence at time but it's all good because, in the end, he does truly take so much effort to go above and beyond to makes us understand the concept in the “games” you will do. This class has been one of my favorite for my sophomore year, trust me despite me crying half of the time, I enjoyed my time in this class. Moving on to the next thing, summer work. Um, I heard before DON’T trust me I may be wrong but a handful of student dropped the class last year during summer perhaps when they heard about the summer work, (IT WASN’T AS BAD AS EVERYONE THOUGHT CHILL). Just understand this is an  AP class, and you’re expected to do more work, so it's okayed, chilllll! We haven’t started yet.

Next thing on my list is his Games(shedding couple of tears...good luck my friend). Okay so like if you don’t know, Schiavo renames the “projects” to games because why not I mean like games are fun!( that was hints of my sarcasm, honestly I just think that he thinks it is funny to watch us struggle while we attempt to play his games). Advice for this, bond over the pain with a friend, it’s okay to cry. And second, of all PLEASE DO NOT  wait until the night before to start one of his games. GOD, I’m trying to save you, your sleep and energy so listen up, you will die if you start the night before, and I don’t know probably get a bad grade. I cannot stress this enough. Don’t do this man, you have other classes with another load of work and you need sleep so be smart. Start when you get it so later on you can rest up and watch other people struggle.

The last couple of things I have to say is please do not be afraid to speak up, ask question etc or even go to him during lunch if you have questions, this course is a lot to handle sometimes. It can be overwhelming, it might all seem scary but ask for help when needed. You’re probably questioning me, I know he might seem scary, but trust me in this! It can save your life. Plus also do the homework, you usually go over it and have a conversation about this that will help you in the essay test he gives you. Plus with that it’s easier to have a conversation because you have something to say, NEVER let the room get too quiet because it gets awkward-yikes!

Before I end this I just need to let you know that the amount of knowledge that gets thrown at you each day, it’s so rewarding. You will obtain massive amounts and every day you will leave that room feeling smarter than when you first walked in. And after the year ended, you will now know a lot whatever it’s for final or AP testing. You have come from a long road. Once the year is finally over, you can relax and reflect. Honestly, this is one of the most rewarding class, it helps you grow.  So if you got this far and listened to this, you’ll be fine. Try not to stress and get sleep(I know this is tough), but in the end, it’s all worth it. If you need help don’t be afraid to ask Mr. Schiavo or former APUSH students for advice. Best of luck to you, you need it.

Sincerely, a former APUSH student

1. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. Calm. Down. I know you are most likely freaking out at the moment, as the words of past APUSH students rush through your head. Words like, “It’s incredibly difficult”, or “HA! Good luck…”, or even “The amount of work was so crazy I like had a panic attack every night.” I am here to tell you right now, calm down, calm down, calm down. I remember on the days leading up to the first day of class I was a WRECK. Panicking about the horror stories I had heard from upperclassmen, I was seriously considering dropping, even though I am very much a fan of history. Walking in on the first day was one of the most anxiety-filled moments of my life, my head racing relentlessly. Looking back at it now, I laugh at how crazy I had driven myself over it. I know at first Mr. Schiavo is going to seem a little intimidating, but not to worry, he is far from an evil monster. You will soon see his awesome sense of humor and will begin to relax around him. Depending on what kind of student you are, the amount of work he assigns may or may not seem like a lot to you. For me, even though I did become stressed out at times, I felt that the work was manageable the majority of the time. I’m not going to lecture you about the stupidity of procrastination blah..blah..blah… because most of us do it. However, I want to stress that whenever you do decide to do the work, do it with sincerity and do it well. I don’t stress this because of grades, I stress this because you will have such a better learning experience this way. I mean, the grades are also a part of it too. But, the level to which you truly understand and take time to think about the material will help you so much in the long run, especially when preparing for the AP test. Just pay attention and take your work seriously. That’s it. Just do it. You will be fine. I know that walking in on the first day I really needed to hear these two little words. Calm. Down. Good luck on your APUSH adventures! Enjoy it while it lasts.
2. As you sit here on your first day of AP US History, I would like to offer you these words of wisdom. First, don't panic, it really isn't as bad as everyone makes it out to be, as long as you stay on top of your work you will be perfectly fine. Secondly, all of the work Mr. Schiavo assigns you is for a reason, even if it's not graded or collected, do it. Another thing is that this is a class where you really really shouldn't wait until the last day before starting a project or completing a homework assignment, plan your time wisely, if you are given multiple days to work on it, there is a reason for it. To prepare for ID tests, maybe try to start a Google Doc with some other people in the class so you can all collaboratively make a study guide with all of the important things you should know for the test. READ YOUR SPIRITS, don't be like that one kid that sits four seats away from me and tries to bum them off of someone the morning they're due. Pay attention to Mr. Schiavo’s lectures in class, if he's taking the time to discuss it to everyone, it's probably worth noting.

A final piece of wisdom that I wish to bestow upon you is to try to take interest in and enjoy this class, it is one of the few classes where you can voice your opinion and give your personal view on topics that truly do affect our world. Yours truly, The Ghost of APUSH